

Hafa Adai!

8 rescued from distressed vessel near Saipan. **PAGE 3**

RB supports bill to limit cannabis manufacturing to certain zoning districts. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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IN LIQUIDATION OF CASINO PROPERTY

IPI creditors not satisfied with proposed bid price

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The official committee of general unsecured creditors have a filed an opposition to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion "to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of the debtor's assets and related relief" as they are not satisfied with the bid price of \$10 million proposed in liquidation of the casino property.

See IPI on Page 4

NWS: growing speculation of possible tropical cyclone

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off Tiyan, Guam says that they continue to monitor growing speculations of a possible tropical cyclone in the Marianas ex-

pected sometime next week.

According to a regional report from NWS, locally, there is growing speculation about the possibility of a tropical cyclone developing within the Federated States of Micronesia and moving

See CYCLONE on Page 4

DUE TO FLOOD OF FEDERAL FUNDS

Hocog: Rota's focus now is construction of facilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog said their major focus right now is about building or more specifically construction of various public facilities because



Hocog

the island is very fortunate to receive a lot of federal support.

A lot of grants that have been submitted to the federal government were approved, said Hocog during an interview over the weekend at the Sunset Park in

See HOCOG on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Hazardous Material Response Team meet just moments before Day 2 of simulated Konfitma 2024 training last Wednesday at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Lower Base chlorine storage unit.

2024 KONFITMA

'Better to be prepared than surprised'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Konfitma in Chamorro describes the essence of the Konfitma training, which is "confirming the plan" or more literally, to "confirm."

In this year's edition of the real-life scenario training that concluded last Wednesday, the goal remained the same, to confirm a solid plan

See BETTER on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Hazardous Material Response Team contains a chlorine spill in a simulated exercise last Wednesday at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Lower Base chlorine storage unit.



INSIDE



BUSINESS

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and Bank of Hawaii came together to celebrate the recipients of this year's Small Business Revitalization & Development Grant.

PAGE 13



WORLD

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, one of Ukraine's most recognizable faces on the international stage, resigned Wednesday ahead of an expected reshuffling of government leaders.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

A prosecutor asked a New Mexico judge to reconsider the decision to dismiss an involuntary manslaughter charge against Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer.

PAGE 15



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Local

8 rescued from distressed vessel near Saipan

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public Safety has confirmed the successful rescue of eight individuals aboard a distress vessel, identified as *Rose I*, after it encountered mechanical issues approximately 27 miles northwest of Saipan. The incident unfolded last Tuesday, Sept. 3.

According to a press release from DPS, the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam received a distress signal from the vessel at about 4:11 PM. Responding to the call, the DPS Marine Patrol Section quickly launched its Impact vessel and made contact with the stranded boat at around 6:45pm.

According to the report,

the group, who had initially launched from Smiling Cove Marina at 1am on Monday, Sept. 2, had reached Anatahan Island by 6:30am, where they spent the day fishing. However, on their return journey to Saipan, which began around 9:30am the following day, the vessel started experiencing mechanical problems. The situation escalated, prompting the captain to activate the

See RESCUED on Page 4

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RB supports bill to limit cannabis manufacturing to certain zoning districts

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” B. Camacho has publicly voiced his support for House Local Bill 23-45

which essentially limits cannabis manufacturing and processing to certain zoning district similar to poker

and e-gaming zoning laws.

Last Tuesday, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation had its fourth regular session where Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) introduced HLB 23-45 “to allow cannabis manufacturing and processing for conditional use within certain zoning districts.”

During the SNILD session, Camacho took the stand voicing his support for the bill if its intent is similar to poker zoning laws.

“Let’s take a look at this and see how we can make it identical to the Poker zoning laws. Away from school zones, and away from residential areas. If that’s the intent of this bill, I support that,” he said.

The bill has been referred to the Standing Committee of Zoning.

According to the House Local Bill, pursuant to CNMI Public Law 20-66

3 (Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018), as amended, the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission is responsible for regulating the Cannabis Industry within the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, they are authorized to issue licenses related to the processing and/or manufacturing of marijuana items.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Zoning Office is responsible for overseeing all zoning districts within the island of Saipan.

Pursuant to Section 404, Table I of 9 the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, such table indicates the types of uses and which districts where such uses can be done.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOCOG

From page 1

Las Vegas where she watched the three-day 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament.

The mayor said they are working with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, the Rota Legislative Delegation, and the leadership with the Rota Chamber of Commerce, to see what they can do to help stimulate the local economy.

“We recognize the importance of small businesses. We recognize the importance of how we can bring people in so they can appreciate the true beauty of Rota as well as come and enjoy their time, spend their time with their families on Rota,” she said.

Hocog underscored the need to encourage their people because they have great skills and great ideas that can generate into businesses.

On inter-island flight service, the mayor said they are very fortunate that Star Marianas Air, Inc. has rescinded its notice to stop or halt services.

Hocog, however, stated that they need more flights to really help stimulate the island’s economy.

“We need to increase the number of frequency of bringing people in and I’m sure it’s going to be a long standing plan,” she said.

In the meantime, the mayor said, they are going to focus on renovating their public facilities and on really upgrading the island to be safe and clean where tourists, their people, and everybody can enjoy.

Star Marianas reportedly rescinded its previous notice to discontinue scheduled air service after Palacios intervened in the dispute between Star Marianas and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Star Marianas’ termination of inter-island flight service supposed to take effect on

Oct. 15, 2024.

Serving as mayor for two years now has been a challenge for Hocog.

“All you can do is take the day by day. We have many issues,” said Hocog, as she stated that she surrounded herself with good teams in trying to identify the island’s main priorities.

She said transportation is the biggest challenge and the cost of living on how they can help the people.

“And so, by addressing these things and at the same time also providing opportunities for our children, for our people is how we can simultaneously address the issues,” the mayor said.

She said all they can do is really be transparent and just continue to work hard everyday.

“The partnerships are very important. No one person can do things alone. So, it’s the sense of community that’s what [is going to] help us through hard times,” Hocog said.

CYCLONE

From page 1

toward the Marianas sometime early to mid-next week.

This remains one of several forecast scenarios for the region through next week, NWS said adding that they will continue to keep an eye out.

“We are aware of scenarios being circulated on social media via a number of weather apps. However, these scenarios are still in the longer range and subject to significant change. We are watching model forecast trends closely as well as monitoring all available observed weather conditions. Stay tuned to weather forecasts

from the NWS in the coming days as conditions evolve. For now, there are no suspect tropical disturbances in the region, however, we will keep a close eye on conditions within the trough northwest of the Marianas (anything here will not be a threat to the region), and in the FSM, for any suspect areas for development,” said NWS.

NWS further states that the weekly regional weather outlook will be updated later this week, if conditions warrant, in support of early, proactive communication and preparedness.

Meanwhile, a tropical disturbance, Invest 93W, sits well north of the Marianas and poses no threat to the region.

Elsewhere, a number of forecast

models indicate the development of a tropical disturbance later this week, near or south of Kosrae and Pohnpei then developing further as it makes a pass near or through the region between Yap and the northern Marianas sometime next week.

Because of this, tropical weather activity is possible through next week, but not necessarily guaranteed.

Aside from that, for the rest of this week, NWS says the region remains free of significant weather at this time.

Last week, a tropical disturbance near Palau developed to become Tropical Storm Yagi (12W) which is currently moving away from the northern Philippines to the west.

IPI

From page 1

The official committee of general unsecured creditors, through attorneys Aram Ordubegian and Christopher K.S. Wong, have filed an opposition to IPI’s motion “to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of the debtor’s assets and related relief” due to concerns regarding the proposed bid of \$10 million in the liquidation of the casino property and other IPI assets.

Specifically, the committee of IPI creditors feel the proposed bid was lowballed and unfairly favors “stalking horse purchaser” Loi Lam Sit, the same person who agreed to lend IPI over \$7 million in debtor-in-possession financing pursuant to bankruptcy court’s approval.

“The motion contemplates a sale of only the debtor’s leasehold interest and related personal properties at a lowball and arbitrarily set price to Mr. Sit—the DIP lender with dubious connections to the debtor and its principals. Indeed, the proposed bid procedures unfairly favor Mr. Sit, without ever requiring him to demonstrate his ability to satisfy the leasehold obligations, his wherewithal to

operate a hotel, or his connections to the debtor (i.e., whether any side agreements or conditions have been established for him to receive this sweetheart deal),” said the group’s lawyer Ordubegian.

Ordubegian adds that at this juncture of the case, the primary objective must be to maximize returns for creditors, including the Commonwealth, local vendors and suppliers, and former employees. However, this doesn’t seem to be the case therefore IPI’s motion must be denied.

“The only viable outcome, therefore, is the sale of the debtor’s assets through a strategic marketing process to bring it to an operating casino and hotel, ensuring not only the highest possible recovery for the creditors but also securing the tax revenue, tourism, and job creation that it would bring to Saipan. As demonstrated herein, the motion must be denied as the proposed bid procedures would necessarily tie to a sale that fails to satisfy the most basic obligation of a Chapter 11 debtor—to maximize returns for the creditors,” said Ordubegian.

“The proposed bid procedures raise significant concerns for several reasons: (a) the stalking horse bid price appears to be artificially low,

(b) the debtor has failed to engage in any meaningful marketing process to solicit other potential buyers, and (c) the relationship between Mr. Sit and the debtor’s owners, as well as his overall intentions, remain murky at best,” Ordubegian adds.

Ordubegian further argues that IPI’s actions—or lack thereof—suggest a hasty acceptance of the unfavorable terms, which is not inevitable.

“The Commonwealth Casino Commission has stated that it will not restate a casino license to the debtor or parties connected to the debtor. However, the CCC has indicated a willingness to work with disinterested bidders for granting a casino license. By excluding the casino license from the scope of ‘acquired assets,’ the proposed bid procedures fail to capture the cumulative value of the assets as a casino hotel and dissuades potential buyers in the gaming/gambling industry from ever submitting a bid. Instead, the debtor proposes bid procedures which have been narrowly tailored to serve the interests of Mr. Sit, who does not qualify to operate a casino,” said Ordubegian.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BETTER

From page 1

for frontlining response agencies and to further prepare these individuals when faced in such dangerous situations.

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management played a major role in leading the two-day drills, which covered responding to active shootings, mass care, and biochemical cleanups.

“We don’t want a real-world situation like this to happen, but it’s best that we practice and we exercise these drills so we’re prepared if it does happen,” said HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez, adding that early on in the training, the goal was to save lives and protect the CNMI should these scenarios hit home.

Villagomez shared that around 100 frontliners participated in the training, with an active shooter and hostage simulation on Day 1.

On Day 2, Villagomez shared, “The final day for Konfitma 2024 was a simulated chlorine leak scenario at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Lower Base chlorine storage unit. The CNMI Hazardous Material Response Team was activated to access and stop the leak inside the storage unit. Two groups made entry into the storage unit. The first group discovered the leak, assessed it, and recorded critical data and footage for the second group. Once the first group went through the decontamination process, they shared the information with the second group. The second group then entered the storage unit and stopped the leak inside. Upon exiting they conducted their decontamination procedures.”

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services was one of the agencies that was part of the CNMI Hazardous Material Response Team.

DFEMS public information officer Robert Mojica expressed his gratitude for the training opportunities and emphasized just how important being prepared for these real-world scenarios.

“I think it’s really good that we have training scenarios like Konfitma that we are able to plan and coordinate different tactics with our partner agencies...There has been people

that have asked me why are we doing this big scale training exercises, ‘it’s never going to happen on Saipan,’ well you never know that this isn’t going to happen. You’ll never know if we’re going to get an active shooting. You’ll never know if we’re going to get a chemical compound or a biological compound lab, and we do have terrorists planning things out there,” he said.

Mojica added, “We never thought we would have a hostage situation in San Antonio, we’d never thought we’d have an armed gunman somewhere, but it happened [in 2020].”

With all the uncertainty, he said it was better to be prepared than surprised.

“We never know, and it’s always good to plan and always good to prepare because at least we’ll have that readiness to say, yes, we have trained for this, we have guys that know what they’re doing. We have guys that are going to go in attack and accomplish the mission at hand.”

As this year’s training comes to an end, Villagomez shared a big thank you on behalf of CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

“On behalf of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, we would like to express our gratitude to all the participating agencies that contributed to the success of Konfitma 2024. The dedication, collaboration, and commitment to enhancing our community’s preparedness are truly appreciated. The knowledge, resources, and expertise shared played a critical role in making Konfitma 2024 a success. We look forward to continuing our partnership with all government agencies as we work together to protect and strengthen the CNMI.”

RESCUED

From page 3

radio distress signal at about 1pm.

MPS towed the vessel back to Smiling Cove Marina, where they safely arrived at 10:24pm. Fortunately, none of the eight occupants required medical attention.

Upon inspection, DPS officers found the vessel to be in full compliance with all boating laws and regulations.

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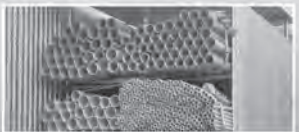
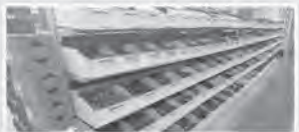


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PH mobile consular outreach on Saipan on Sept. 13, 14

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will conduct mobile consular services on Saipan on Sept. 13 and 14 at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

In addition, the mobile consular services on Tinian will be held on Sept. 15 at JC Cafe Restaurant before moving to Rota the next day, Sept. 14, at Puesto Grill.

Beginning Sept. 3, 2024 until Sept. 10, 2024, all ePassport applicants are requested

to secure their appointment slots through the Global Appointment System by logging in at passport.gov.ph and choosing the following site:

» **Tinian and Rota on Sept. 15, 16**

Region: North America
Country: United States of America
Site: Agana PCG – Outreach in Saipan

Applicants who need further assistance in using the online appointment system may send an email to the

Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam at pcgagana@gmail.com.

The consular outreach team will also offer other consular services such as notarization/legalization, civil registry, overseas voters registration and acceptance of dual citizenship applications.

For applicants availing of civil registry (reports of birth, reports of marriage, and reports of death), notarials and dual citizenship applications, all documents and requirements must be submitted to the consulate general for pre-screening/evaluation and pre-processing on or before Sept. 10, 2024 via email at pcgagana@gmail.com. Pre-screening and pre-processing of civil registry documents and dual citizenship applications will be strictly observed.

For consular services, including passport renewal, that require civil registration documents (e.g. birth certificate and marriage certificate), only documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority or its predecessor, National Statistics Office, will be accepted.

The following shall be observed and implemented at the consular outreach mission:

1. Only passport applicants who have secured their appointment thru GOAS will be allowed at the venue, no escort(s), except for Senior Citizens, PWD and minor applicants;

2. Passport applicants are reminded to bring the print-out of their GOAS-generated passport application form on the date and time of their appointment;

Date	Time	Slots
13 September 2024	1:00PM – 2:00PM	12
	2:00PM – 3:00PM	12
	3:00PM – 4:00PM	12
	4:00PM – 5:00PM	12
14 September 2024	9:00AM – 10:00AM	12
	10:00AM – 11:00AM	12
	11:00AM – 12:00PM	12
	1:00PM – 2:00PM	12
	2:00PM – 3:00PM	12
	3:00PM – 4:00PM	12
15 September 2024	10:00AM – 11:00AM	12
	11:00AM – 12:00PM	12
	1:00PM – 2:00PM	12
	2:00PM – 3:00PM	12
	3:00PM – 4:00PM	12
	4:00PM – 5:00PM	12
16 September 2024	10:00AM – 11:00AM	12
	11:00AM – 12:00PM	12
	1:00PM – 2:00PM	12
	2:00PM – 3:00PM	12
	3:00PM – 4:00PM	12
	4:00PM – 5:00PM	12

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The time slots available during the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam's mobile consular services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota this month.

3. Applicants are advised to show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule;

4. Passport applicants should wear proper attire (i.e. with collar and sleeves) for data capture purposes; and,

5. Ensure submission of complete requirements by checking at <https://aganapcg.dfa.gov.ph/>.

Further, in compliance with

the Department of Foreign Affairs' Foreign Service Circular FSC No. 2024-039 dated May 3, 2024, expedite fees for same-day processing and releasing of notarials, certifications, and authentication services, will be charged to consular applicants (except for passport transactions) in the amount of \$10 per document during consular outreach missions. (PR)

Regal Saipan marks 25th anniversary with charity screenings for NMC Foundation

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration of showcasing movies on Saipan, Regal Saipan will present the digital rerelease of *The Green Mile* and *The Mummy* this Sunday, Sept. 8, for only \$1.99 a ticket. All proceeds from the screenings will be donated to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

"We are deeply grateful to Regal Saipan for their generous support as we celebrate their 25th anniversary of showcasing movies on Saipan," NMC Foundation chair Ben Babauta said.

"The donation of all proceeds to the Foundation is a testament to Regal's commitment to giving back to our community."

In addition to the screenings, from Friday, Sept. 6, to Sunday, Sept. 8, Regal Saipan guests can enjoy a specially priced \$9 small popcorn and soda combo at the concession stand. Regal Crown Club members will also earn 2,500 bonus credits on each daily visit throughout September.

All local moviegoers are encouraged to attend Regal Saipan's Community Appreciation Event this weekend, which will give theater staff

the opportunity to personally thank guests for reaching this historic 25-year milestone.

"I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Regal Saipan for their incredible support as we celebrate their 25th anniversary of bringing movies to our community," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "The special screenings of *The Green Mile* and *The Mummy* not only provide an opportunity for our residents to enjoy classic films at an affordable price, but also contribute to a worthy cause—the Northern Marianas College Foundation."

About Regal

Regal, a subsidiary of the Cineworld Group, operates one of the largest and most geographically diverse theater circuits in the United States, consisting of 5,774 screens in 425 theaters in 41 states, along with the District of Columbia and Guam, as of Aug. 31, 2024. The company believes that the size, reach, and quality of its theater circuit provide patrons with a convenient and enjoyable moviegoing experience. Additional information is available online at REG-movies.com. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnmports.com)

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 09, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 06, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$200.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR PROPOSAL IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, (RFP-001-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 09, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Richelle Janelle } FCD PA CIVIL
Cabrera Boria } ACTION NO.
(Name of Mother/Father) } 24-0336
E.J.B.T. }
(Name(s) of Child(ren)) }
Plaintiffs, }
vs. }
Eugenio Naputi Tenorio }
(Name of Mother/ Father) }
Defendant }

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 7317 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

FOR DCCA CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Pure Love Daycare 3 receives license

Pure Love Daycare 3 is excited to announce that it has received a new license under the DCCA Child Care Development Fund subsidy program. This license enables Pure Love Daycare 3 to extend its high-quality care and educational services to more families in the Chalan Kanoa community.

With this new license, Pure Love Daycare 3 is now accepting new and transfer applicants for its infant, toddler, and afterschool care programs. Pure Love Daycare 3's dedicated staff is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment for all children its care.

The Child Care Development Fund Program assists low-income families in ac-



Pure Love Daycare 3 recently received a new license under the DCCA Child Care Development Fund subsidy program.

cessing quality childcare for children while parents work or participate in education or job

training. Pure Love Daycare 3 encourages parents to explore this opportunity to enroll their

children in its programs. For more information or to begin the application process,

November is National Novel Writing Month

National Novel Writing Month is November. It's not too late or too early to start thinking about the book you want to write. September is a perfect month to ease into writing mode. The best way to do that is to read. As best-selling author Stephen King said, "If you want to be a writer you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot."

"We'll write a lot in November, but now is the time to read a lot," said NaNoWriMo's Jane Mack.

1. Select your genre

You can read indiscriminately, but if you want to prepare for NaNoWriMo, I suggest that you first select your genre. What do you want to write? Contemporary fiction? Historical fiction? Romance? Detective mystery? Literary fiction? Women's fiction? Science fiction? Young adult? Mid-grade? Thriller? Cozy mystery? Steam punk? Fantasy? Novels come in a wide assortment of genres. Don't be overwhelmed! They're all good if they fit your fancy. Just choose.

If you don't want to write a novel, you can still choose your preferred genre, because NaNoWriMo is flexible—you can write a memoir. Or history. Or biography. Or even a how-to book. While the NaNoWriMo focus is primarily on fiction, if you want to write non-fiction, September is a good month to read that too!

2. Select books and read

You can find books in any of these genres at the Joeten-

September prep for NaNoWriMo

November is National Novel Writing Month. September is the time to read your genre and discuss the books you're reading. Join Jane Mack Saturdays in September (Sept. 7 and 21) at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at 10am. We

Kiyu Public Library, if you don't already have a "to-be-read" shelf at home. So having selected your genre, go select your books. Don't worry about finding the right book. Or the best. Instead, follow the advice of American great, William Faulkner, who said, "Read, read, read. Read everything-trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read!" Get several books in your genre. And start reading.

3. Discuss and analyze

But to prepare for NaNoWriMo and writing your own book, it's not enough to absorb by osmosis from the books you read. It helps to discuss them with others. To analyze them with an eye toward what you liked and what you didn't like. Not everyone enjoys the same cup of tea. What may be a popular trope could be something you despise when you're reading that genre.

The important part is to figure out not only mechanics about novels that work well, and get inspiration from reading, but to seriously think about what you like and don't like. What you want to bring to the page and how you can

can talk about what you're reading and analyze it to figure out what you like, what you don't. All in preparation for writing your story! As J.K. Rowling said, "You can't be a good writer without being a devoted reader." (PR)

do that in the best way for you. Want to talk about the books you've read? "I will be at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on the Saturdays that they're open (Sept. 7 and

21). Please plan on coming and chatting," said Mack. Writing your story is important to all of us. Your story matters. Sue Monk Kidd, author, says "Stories have to be told or they die. And when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here." Stories help us survive through adversity. They act as beacons of light. They raise questions, big or small, that help us explore our inner world and our outer existence. You have a story to tell. Now is the time to start! Join me at the JKPL on Saturdays, and let's talk books and writing. (PR)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Mercantile Capital Corporation dba LJ's 1
THE POSITION: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Technician
NO. OF VACANCIES: 1
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Repair or replace parts for commercial air conditioning and refrigeration units and other appliances, such as, wiring, motors, pumps, switches, lights, fans, and thermostats; Inspect and test air conditioning systems to ensure they are working properly; Check the contactors, start/run capacitors and the condenser fan motor; Ensure that standards are being complied with and procedures and policies are being followed; Maintain a safe area; Use electrical equipment to test for continuity of circuits and components; Responsible for arranging cooling and refrigeration systems for the business; and Read blue prints to ensure proper placement and installation of ductwork and pipes.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least high school graduate.
WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have a minimum of 24 months of relevant work experience as a Refrigeration and Airconditioning Technician.
JOB LOCATION: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and supporting credentials to:

YEOW CHUE CHUA
Vice-President
MERCANTILE CAPITAL CORPORATION

Office Address: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 505440, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: (670) 234-3813
Email Address: ljsupermarket123@gmail.com; 168chua@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Mantrade Company, Incorporated
THE POSITION: Accountant
NO. OF VACANCIES: 1
JOB SITE: Unit 107, 1st Floor, MSV Bldg., 1499 Beach Rd, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JOB DESCRIPTION: Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Analyze and journalize business transactions; Post entries to general ledger; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Prepare financial statements following generally accepted accounting principles; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Maintain books of account such as receipts and disbursement registers; Reconcile financial ledgers, monthly bank statements, and other records; Prepare and monitor cash position of the company on a daily basis and report daily cash balances to higher management; Handle bank transactions; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Ensure smooth flow of system and accuracy in the accounting department; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers, and assess propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Research and resolve discrepancies; Prepare bank reconciliation and related journal entries; Communicate with managers and operation personnel in creating and implementing various related systems and controls; Prepare payroll; Prepare CNMI and Federal taxes; Handle account receivable ledger; Make reconciliation and adjustments; Coordinate with external auditors during year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Service as company liaison to various government agencies and private entities within the area of responsibility; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:


DAISY C. GONZALES
Vice-President
MANTRADE COMPANY, INCORPORATED

Office Address: Unit 107, 1st Floor, MSV Bldg., 1499 Beach Rd, Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: (670) 235-1929
Email Address: mantrade.img@gmail.com




Pure Love Daycare 3 is now accepting new and transfer applicants for our infant, toddler, and afterschool care programs.

contact Pure Love Daycare at (670) 235-2185 or visit its main business office in Chalan Kiya, Green Meadow School campus. Pure Love Daycare 3 can also be reached at the business office in Chalan Kanoa (670) 234-0467. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-017-24

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN, (IFB-017-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024



A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT


(1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.


DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, September 6, 2024 AT 4:00 PM



CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Friday, September 6, 2024

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will be closed today, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, †MANUEL A. SABLAN

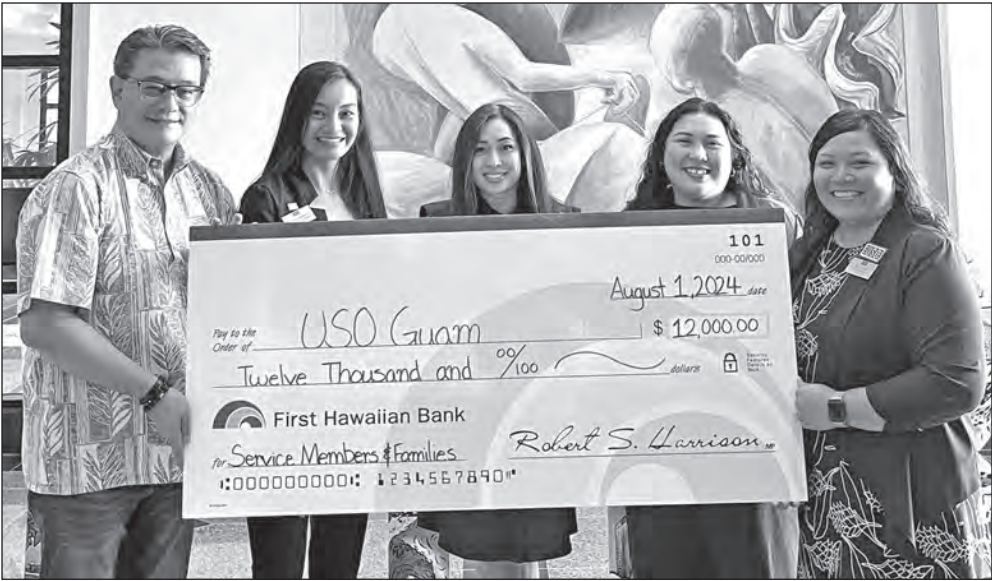
For payments, please drop them off at our drop box at the front door of Room 105, the ground floor of the CEDA Building, Oleai, Saipan.

Thank you for your understanding

CEDA Board of Directors and Management

FHB, USO Guam announce partnership renewal

MAITE, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank proudly reaffirmed its commitment to USO Guam with a generous donation of \$12,000 through the First Hawaiian Bank Foundation grant presented on Aug. 1, 2024, at the bank’s Maite branch. Although this was the third consecutive year USO Guam was selected to receive the foundation’s grant, the




From left, Edward Untalan, executive vice president and Guam-CNMI region manager, First Hawaiian Bank; Regina Taimanglo, area operations manager, USO Guam; Francine Cruz, vice president and branch manager, First Hawaiian Bank; Aliciana Jocson, area operations specialist, USO Guam; and Jadine Lujan, area director, USO Guam.

bank’s support and partnership spans more than a decade. The FHB Foundation is the official charity of FHB and is the largest corporate charitable foundation in Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI). This contribution underscores FHB’s commitment to enriching lives throughout the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and CNMI as well as their unwavering support of the USO mission to strengthen the well-being of the people serving in America’s military and their families. “First Hawaiian Bank’s partnership, under the leadership of Ed Untalan, First Hawaiian Bank executive vice president and Guam-CNMI region manager, plays a vital role in enabling USO Guam to extend our services to over 20,000 military service and family members and more than 100,000 deployed forces annually,” stated Jadine Lujan, USO Guam area director. The USO remains dedicated to its mission of addressing the evolving challenges and needs of the military community, adapting its efforts to ensure comprehensive support and connection for those who serve. USO Guam provides morale-boosting support through its three centers located at Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam and Tumon Bay, in addition to impactful programming delivered throughout Guam and the CNMI. In 2023, USO Guam welcomed more than 90,000 visits to its centers and provided programs attended by nearly 60,000 service and family members throughout the year.

» USO Guam receives First Hawaiian Bank Foundation grant for the third consecutive year

About the USO
The USO is the leading non-profit dedicated to the well-being of all people serving in the U.S. military and their families. Since 1941, the USO has been by the side of service members throughout their military service. Impactful support is provided through our 250+ locations around the world, a robust care package delivery program, global entertainment, military spouse and youth programming, and much more, all made possible by dedicated donors, corporate partners, volunteers and staff. To learn more and support our critical mission around the globe, please visit USO.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and LinkedIn. *(PR)*



ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(A:) Kagman III, (B:) Southern (San Antonio), (C:) Tinian

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement the organization’s strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a \$3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster an inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:


- Education:** Master’s degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC’s conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:

- Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually


How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 <http://kagmanchc.org>



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 6, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	7/1/2024 RMS-2024-065	Rota Route 103 Improvement Project	Sinapalo, Rota	Major Siting	Approved* 8/28/2024
2.	Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	8/2/2024 SPK-2024-077	Construction of S02 Workshop Facility	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 8/30/2024
3.	Island Marine Sports, Inc. dba Island Marine Sports	8/8/2024 SLR-2024-078	Commercial Parasailing Activities	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 9/3/2024
4.	GHD, Inc.	8/15/2024 SPIWm-2024-081	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Garapan to Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Wetlands & Mangroves	Approved* 8/30/2024
5.	Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects (TRMA)	8/15/2024 SSm-2024-082	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Oleai, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 8/30/2024
6.	GHD, Inc.	8/15/2024 SPIWm-2024-083	Soil Testing/Boring Project	Lowerbase to San Roque, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Wetlands & Mangroves	Approved* 8/30/2024
7.	P'Art Corporation Ocean	9/4/2024 SLR-2024-084	Commercial Parasailing Activity	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

COTA admin office to temporarily close

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, under the Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor, Administrative Office will be closed from Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, through Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, as COTA undergoes the Federal Transit Administration: FY2024 State Management Review. The Administrative Office will reopen on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024. The Call-A-Ride-Saipan demand responsive shared ride program and Transit CNMI Blue Line 1B public transportation services shall remain open as regularly scheduled during this time. COTA appreciates the public’s understanding and patience during this period. For questions or concerns, contact COTA’s office at (670) 664-2682. *(PR)*

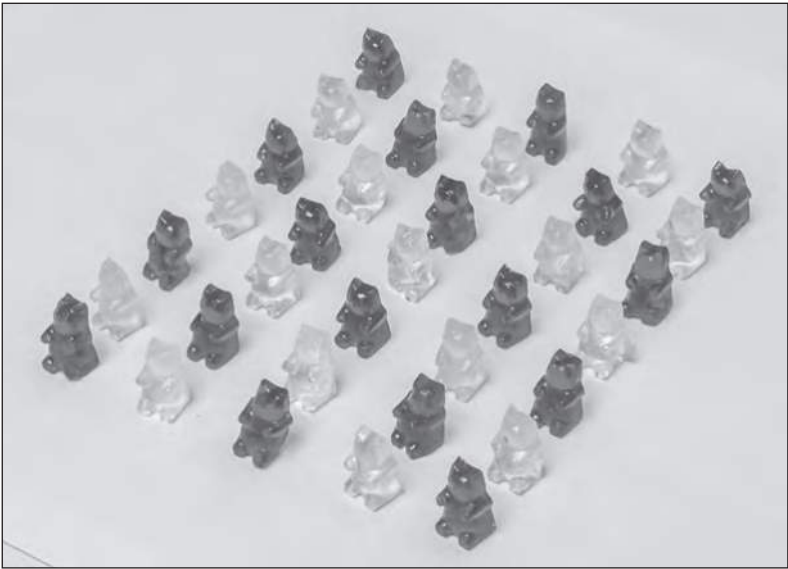
DRAGON FRUIT GUMMIES, TURMERIC CHEWS, AND MORE:

Two food processing workshops coming up at UOG

Fancy a dragon fruit gummy candy or a homemade ginger chew? Community members are invited to learn how to make these and other value-added food products at two upcoming workshops with the food science team at University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach.

Dragon fruit and turmeric grow well in Guam’s climate and are readily available at grocery stores and produce stands. They also grow so abundantly that growers sometimes find themselves with an excess, said UOG extension food scientist Dr. Jian Yang. So he and his team have explored some recipes and procedures for turning them into shelf-stable food products and products that are fun to make and share.

A turmeric and ginger processing workshop will be held from 9am to noon on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the UOG Agriculture & Life Sciences Building.



Candies made from locally grown turmeric, ginger, and calamansi. An upcoming food processing workshop on Sept. 14 with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach will teach participants how to make these and other value-added food products using turmeric.

For a \$5 registration fee, participants will learn about the health benefits of turmeric and ginger and how to process them into turmeric powder and turmeric-ginger candy and soft chews.

Two weekends later, on Saturday, Sept. 28, the team will hold a dragon fruit processing workshop, also from 9am to noon at the UOG Agriculture & Life Sciences Building. For a \$5 workshop fee, participants will learn about the health benefits of dragon fruit, post-harvest handling of the fruit, and how to make dragon fruit gummies, jam, and juice.

Capacity for both classes is limited to the first 20 registrants. The workshop fee covers materials and light refreshments. Those interested may register online at:

<https://url.uog.edu/turmeric-workshop>

<https://url.uog.edu/dragonfruit-workshop>



For more information, contact Jane Mendiola or Clarissa S.N. Barcinas at (671) 735-2054/21 or email csn-barcinas@triton.uog.edu.

Stay informed of public work-



Gummy bears made from locally grown dragon fruit. An upcoming food processing workshop on Sept. 28 with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach will teach participants how to make these and other value-added food products from dragon fruit.

shops hosted by UOG Cooperative Extension & Outreach by subscribing to the email list at www.uog.edu/extension/#Subscribe. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-021

AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

and

AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project** consists of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade PH I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in **540 calendar days** from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade PH I** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.



CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Harris flails, flops and fades in first interview

The country now understands why Kamala Harris' campaign was so reluctant to have her do an interview. On Thursday, the Democratic presidential nominee sat down for a taped interview with CNN's Dana Bash. It was the first time Harris engaged in a substantial back-and-forth since becoming the Democrats' presumed nominee more than one month ago.

During the primary process and on the campaign trail, most presidential candidates do dozens or hundreds of interviews. Harris even did many in 2019 when she ran for president. This process helps voters judge candidates, their views and their character. It also helps candidates grow comfortable talking to voters and about their positions.

This year, voters didn't get that opportunity with Harris. She spent more than a month dodging the press since becoming the presumptive and now official Democratic nominee.

The portion of the interview that CNN aired was less than 30 minutes long. It's not clear how much CNN cut in editing. Refusing to do a live interview doesn't project much confidence. What little was shown left many questions unanswered.

Bash asked Harris about her position on the Green New Deal and banning fracking. Previously, Harris supported both of those things. But now Harris said that she doesn't support banning fracking.

"In 2020 I made very clear where I stand. We are in 2024, and I have not changed that position, nor will I going forward. I kept my word, and I will keep my word," Harris said.

"What made you change that position at the time?" Bash asked.

"Well, let's be clear. My values have not changed," Harris responded.

See if you can follow this. Harris flip-flopped on a fracking ban, but she won't flop back in the future. Also, her values have not changed.

That answer is like a choose-your-own-adventure story.

Then there's the economy. Bash started the interview with an easy one. It wasn't a softball question. It was a beach ball.

"What would you do on day one in the White House?" she asked.

Harris' answer was so full of platitudes that Bash asked her again, "So, what would you do day one?"

Eventually, Harris had to face an obvious, yet important question. If your ideas are so great, why haven't you implemented them?

"We had to recover as an economy, and we have done that," Harris said before furiously dodging the question.

That's unlikely to impress the many families struggling to afford groceries.

The optics of the interview didn't do Harris any favors either.

For one, Harris insisted that her VP pick and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz accompany her. It was an odd decision. Yes, she wants to shatter the glass ceiling as the first woman president. But don't worry, voters. When she's meeting with something who makes her nervous—whether it's a CNN anchor or foreign dictator—she'll have a man there to support her. It would have been better to do a joint interview after she had done a dozen or so solo interviews.

See HARRIS on Page 11



Netanyahu's conflicts of interest are hurting Israel

There's no job on earth less attractive than being a head of state forced to decide between cutting a hostage deal with terrorists that risks encouraging repetition, or consigning innocents to be murdered. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu knows this dilemma better than anyone. To get a single soldier back in 2011, he traded more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including Yahya Sinwar, the current Hamas leader who more than a decade later masterminded the mass hostage grab of Oct. 7.

So why was there so much anger against Netanyahu this weekend, rather than empathy for the burden he carries, after six hostages were killed by their minders in a Gaza tunnel? Hamas is, after all, the villain of this piece; it's both kidnapper and executioner. Yet Netanyahu's refusal to agree to a cease-fire provoked the largest street protests of the war to date, as well as a nationwide strike by Israel's biggest trades union and the shuttering of malls and businesses in sympathy.

Judging by the language of the protesters and hostage families, the answer lies in a profound lack of trust in the prime minister's motivations as he makes these decisions of life, death, war and peace for others.

Netanyahu's 180-degree change of approach to dealing with hostage takers may be one source of that mistrust. In the one-for-1,027 swap of 2011, for example, he said he was agreeing to release even Hamas prisoners jailed for killing Israelis because "the state of Israel does not abandon its soldiers and citizens." Now, he says Israel must do exactly that, rather than "surrender" to Hamas.

A second reason lies in the details of what such a surrender would mean. Hamas has been heavily degraded as a fighting force, so no Israeli troops would be waving white flags. The capitulation Netanyahu is ruling out would instead be very specific to the cease-fire negotiations, which have stalled over his late addition of a demand that Israeli forces should retain control of the so-called Philadelphia corridor.

Netanyahu says commanding this a narrow strip of land along Gaza's border with Egypt is vital to Israel's security. Yet his own defense minister, Yoav Gallant, says that isn't true. Nor was the corridor even mentioned in Israel's original cease-fire proposal—an odd omission if it is indeed so critical as to warrant the sacrifice of more Jewish and Palestinian lives.

"The fact that we prioritize the Philadelphia Corridor at the cost of the lives of the hostages is a moral disgrace," Gallant told Israel's security cabinet, which met on Sunday in the wake of the executions, according to a leaked report of the proceedings in the Times of Israel. Other top security officials also have said the corridor isn't a make-or-break issue, not least because the tunnels Hamas built under the Egyptian border to smuggle arms begin and end outside it. The deeper source of popular malaise, though, is that Netanyahu has so many apparent conflicts of interest.

By **MARC CHAMPION**

Bloomberg Opinion

Marc Champion is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Europe, Russia and the Middle East. He was previously Istanbul bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal.



A prominent call from protesters is that the prime minister should "take responsibility." Not only did Netanyahu set Sinwar free in 2011, but Oct. 7 also took place on his watch. There are many who will have to share responsibility for this spectacular security failure in the investigation that's certain to follow the war; but as the prime minister who oversaw a policy of shifting attention and security resources to the West Bank from Gaza, Netanyahu would top the list.

Ending the war would accelerate other reckonings for the prime minister. The extreme-right leaders on whom he relies for power have made it clear they will bring down the government the moment he agrees to a cease-fire. They see the conflict as a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to expand Jewish settlement in both the West Bank and Gaza, a goal that requires the long-term military occupation of Palestinian territories.

And should the government collapse, an out-of-power Netanyahu would face ongoing court cases on charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery as an ordinary citizen. Jail time is a real possibility. Small wonder that so many Israelis believe Netanyahu is driven by personal, rather than national, interests on decisions that might end the fighting.

I'm not at all certain that Netanyahu shares the views of his national security minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, who wants to replace Palestinians in Gaza with Jewish settlers and recently made an inflammatory call for the construction of a synagogue on the Temple Mount. That's been the site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, since the 7th century.

Nor can anyone outside Netanyahu's tightest circle be sure that this great political survivor is driven by anything other than his view of the national interest. But, as in all such cases, it's the appearance of a conflict of interest that counts, precisely because it erodes trust and encourages people to believe the worst.

Netanyahu continues to enjoy domestic support for pursuing the destruction of Hamas. But as the implications for the remaining hostages of continuing the war become increasingly clear, this lack of trust in his motives is dividing the nation. Politicians around the democratic world have walked away from power over less.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Is nuclear arms control dead?

There was a time when the subject of nuclear weapons was so consequential to international peace that it could bring even the most intense adversaries into the same room. Increasingly, it feels that this time has passed.

On July 17, China announced that it was suspending arms control talks with Washington, which will cause only more consternation in the Pentagon as Beijing is projected to increase its nuclear arsenal to more than 1,000 warheads by 2030. U.S.-Russia arms control talks are as far off as they've ever been, with

Russian officials threatening to deploy more nuclear missiles closer to NATO territory in retaliation for future U.S. deployments of long-range, ground-launched missiles into Germany.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden's administration has adopted new nuclear guidance to ensure Washington is better prepared to deal with nuclear adversaries Russia, China and North Korea simultaneously.

U.S. attempts to name and shame China and Russia to reenter arms control talks amount to theater. Deploying more intermediate-range missile systems to Europe or Asia is likely to compel China and Russia to pour even more resources into their own strategic weapons systems.

This isn't the first time Washington and Moscow have gone through this situation. During the four-decade-long Cold War, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were locked in multiple nuclear-laced standoffs—the dueling nuclear tests of the 1950s, the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and the Euromissiles crisis in the early 1980s, to name a few. Yet at critical moments, both knew when to step back from the brink, if only because the alternative—arms racing and potential calamity—was too terrifying to imagine. John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev finalized the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 1972. And in 1987, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty after years of intense negotiations.

The difference between then and now, however, is stark. During the Cold War, the nuclear superpowers were willing to silo nuclear arms issues even when other disputes—the division of Europe, Soviet pressure on Poland and the wars in Angola, Afghanistan and Central America—brought the two into systemic rivalry.

Today, there is no siloing. Instead, Russia and China are leveraging their nuclear weapons programs to extract U.S. concessions on unrelated issues. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has repeatedly ruled out a return to U.S.-Russia nuclear talks due to Washington's ongoing military support to Ukraine. China is equally emphatic that nuclear talks with Washington can't go forward unless the U.S. stops exporting weapons to Taiwan.

The Biden administration is frustrated by the linkage. But it shouldn't be surprised. Nuclear weapons are not only a matter of prestige for Moscow and Beijing but also a tool to pressure the U.S. into acceding to their demands. While some may be amenable to cutting off weapons shipments to Ukraine, doing the same with respect to Taiwan is a nonstarter in U.S. policy circles. If the price for arms control negotiations with Russia or China is a fundamental reorientation of U.S. foreign policy, then Washington is likely to avoid dialogue.

Can the U.S. do anything to keep the door to dialogue open? Yes, but it will require some hard choices on Washington's part.

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**

Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



For starters, the U.S. could reverse its decision to station long-range U.S. missiles in Germany by 2026. This turnaround is less radical than it may appear. While bringing more missiles into Central Europe will give more reassurance to NATO allies about U.S. intentions, it won't appreciably strengthen NATO's deterrence vis-à-vis Russia. NATO has been deterring Russia for decades and retains more than enough military capacity to defend its member states without these new missile deployments.

Additional reassurance on Washington's part are also unnecessary. NATO's Article 5 mutual defense clause has been remarkably successful. Even as Russia has unleashed a war in Ukraine, it avoids actions—such as striking NATO weapons convoys into Ukraine—that could be construed as an armed attack on the alliance.

The notion that Russia would pick a fight with NATO at a time when its own poor military performance in Ukraine has been exposed for the entire world to see is difficult to believe. In fact, a deeper U.S. security posture in Germany could even be counterproductive by discouraging European states from investing in their own defense capability over the long term. Stopping these missile deployments would signal to Russia that the U.S. is at least willing to do its part to create an environment favorable for talks, all without compromising NATO's power.

Getting China back to the table will be trickier. The nuclear disparity between the U.S. and China remains lopsided in Washington's favor, which means Beijing may be unwilling to enter a discussion until the warhead gap closes.

Even so, it costs nothing for Biden to reiterate to Xi directly that the core tenets of U.S. policy on Taiwan—opposition to Taiwan's independence, support for a peaceful resolution of cross-strait disputes and opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo—are the same today as they were when the U.S. normalized diplomatic relations with China in 1979. The U.S. could also go a step further by formally denouncing “strategic clarity” as a U.S. policy option, which would disabuse Taiwan that a formal U.S. defense guarantee is in the offing and lower China's concerns about U.S. intentions.

Reagan and Gorbachev's famous quote that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought” remains relevant today. Strategic stability with the world's top powers is still possible, even if it requires trade-offs along the way.

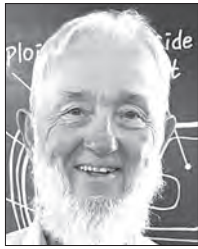
Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka “Pepe Batbon” is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



Brane is the name used for a universe which is a slice of a theoretical larger universe but is a self-contained universe on its own. The branes line up parallel to each other like slices of bread in a loaf. These differ from theoretical bubble and mega universes. My wormhole into this parallel universe is via a river in the brain that flows both ways, the corpus callosum. “Batbon” is part of my Chamorro nickname “Pepe Batbon” which translates as “Joey, the bearded rooster.”

A spiritual sojourn and satori inside and outside Batbon's brane (poem)

From Vancouver Island beyond the Chilcotin wolves and loons cry alongside Murphy Lake
over the banks of Lake Louise a Buck moon Moraine Lake mirrors the Rockies each night
in Waterton Glacier Park the Sunrise Highway tourists take mountain trail pictures of moose
way high up Goat Haunt Montana is abandoned across the wide plains from Calgary toward
Saskatoon Saskatchewan grain fields below stretch endlessly towards Winnipeg Manitoba
thousands of shallow lakes bring us over to Sudbury and the Laurentian Shield of lead
in thunderous skies Canadian geese parade their finger size droppings beg your pardon.

A half century ago I crossed Canada back and forth several times via hitchhiking, van, train. Then after moving to the CNMI 40 years ago this month, I flew RT over AK and Canada via the pole route many times from Tokyo to Detroit to return to the Finger Lakes region in upstate NY where I grew up. In July I flew from Seoul to Vancouver B.C. and across the southern border route of Canada stopping in Calgary, Alberta, the Canadian Rockies, Toronto and crossed the U.S. border in Niagara Falls. The poem about this sojourn satori described above is about that trip. Written lakeside on Irondequoit Bay, Lake Ontario on Aug. 9, 2024.

HARRIS

From page 11

Visually, the setup made Harris look small and diminished. The three of them sat awkwardly around a small table in what looked like an empty restaurant. The arrangement emphasized the height difference between Harris and Mr. Walz. The lighting made the background seem sterile. The wide shot made Harris appear like a teenager trying to explain herself to a disapproving mom and dad.

The easiest way to tell how it went is that Harris' campaign has given no indications they want her to do another interview.

You might have witnessed Harris give two interviews on Thursday—her first and last as the Democratic presidential nominee.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘Thou shall not steal’

One of the Ten Commandments of God is “Thou shall not steal.” We continuously witness this commandment violated.

Where did these individuals get their ideas to practice such a thing? Is it gangsters behind them to take stolen goods and sell them for their needs? All you need to do is ask and we'll be happy to share what we can.

Our farm is just above District 1 right after you pass the wetland area in As Lito. From the first time that we started raising goats, we continuously experienced our goats being stolen. The worse time was back in March 2024. Out of the 30 plus goats, half of them were stolen. To top it off, about 25 plus ducks were totally wiped out. The wild chickens were minimal as they were wild, they ran for their lives. At the same time, our bush cutter, grass blower, and some of our valuable belongings in our home were all gone. I cried and asked myself, what did we do wrong to deserve all these things taken away from us.

We also have a bee farm. Last month for the third time, they vandalized the farm. There were nine hives at the site and six of them were destroyed down to the ground. The person that did this must have bee-protective gear to prevent him/her from being stung by the bees. The bees were very aggressive when there's an intruder in their surroundings but this didn't stop the person from vandalizing our bee farm.

The latest that happened at the farm in As Lito was that our

gray trailer was stolen. We bought it back then at Joeten Superstore. It is my husband's right hand in taking care of almost anything at the farm or around the house.

We reported all these incidents to DPS but they might be overwhelmed with their responsibilities. So many thieves going on at such a small island, no wonder why it is called Islas de Las La Drones (Island of the Thieves)

The police force and the community should try their very best to either solve all these problems or do a systematic patrolling around the island.

Is our community safe with all the things that's happening on our island? we will experience more homeless and sickly people. Every time I read the local newspaper, there are always challenges or fears that's happening.






Let our faith shine in each one of us so that we will have a healthy community. Whoever you are, realize your mistake or wrongdoing because our God is a merciful God that He will forgive our sins.

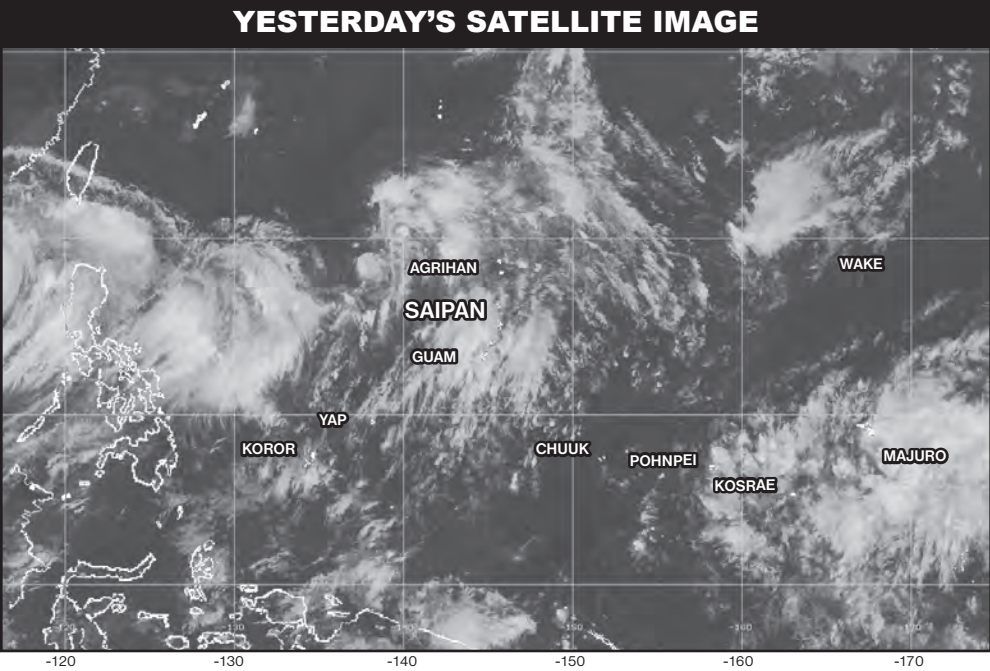
By working together, as a state and church, we can resolve our challenges and fears. I am pretty sure we will have a safe and healthy community.

Winnie C. Camacho

Via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.		Isolated showers. Partly sunny.		Partly sunny		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
85°	80°	85°	80°	86°	80°	86°	80°	85°	81°



Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers were increased to numerous with locally heavy rain possible for today and high-end scattered for tonight. Lightning is also possible. Showers are anticipated to begin to diminish later tonight. Guam will be the first to come out of these showers. This convection is due to a couple of surface troughs embedded within convergent southerly flow over the Marianas. Seas are expected to remain benign at 2 to 4 feet. Winds are also expected to be light to gentle.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Light Rain Shower	87° / 79°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	89° / 76°	
Kosrae	Rain	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:15 AM	8:16 PM	-
Saturday	9:01 AM	8:51 PM	-
Sunday	9:49 AM	9:28 PM	-
Monday	10:40 AM	10:09 PM	-
Tuesday	11:33 AM	10:55 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Beijing	Fair	84° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Light Rain	80° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	62° / 50°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Clear	76° / 61°	
Osaka	Sunny	93° / 74°	
Paris	Showers	97° / 71°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°	
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°	
Seoul	Rain	91° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	78° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:30 AM	Low Tide	0.66	
09:14 AM	High Tide	1.81	
3:36 PM	Low Tide	0.65	
9:28 PM	High Tide	1.82	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Small Business Revitalization & Development Grant awardees celebrated

On Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College and Bank of Hawaii came together to celebrate the recipients of this year's Small Business Revitalization & Development Grant, also known as the "I Kinometi Para I Kuminidat I Isla-ta" Grant. The ceremony took place at NMC's As Terlaje Campus in the Board of Regents Conference Room.

The event was attended by notable guests, including Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC vice president for Administration & Advancement; Michael Sakazaki, BOH senior vice president and senior market manager for Branch Banking West Pacific Market; Joanne Aldan, assistant branch manager for BOH CNMI; Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, CNMI SBDC Network director; and Mercilyn Palec, CNMI SBDC associate network director.

The "I Kinometi Para I Kuminidat I Isla-ta" Grant is an initiative aimed at revitalizing and supporting small businesses in the CNMI, providing each recipient with \$5,000 to help them innovate, expand, and strengthen their operations. This year's

five grant recipients are all clients of the CNMI SBDC Network: Isla Consultancy Services, LLC, represented by Alexandra Villagomez; Mechille Corp., represented by Rens Belo; Peska CNMI, LLC dba Peska Tackle, represented by Vince Tudela; TilSteel, LLC dba Divine's Essentials, represented by Jake Hocog; and Niric, LLC dba Eastside Cuts, represented by Edgar Duenas Niric.

The ceremony was filled with commendable remarks from the distinguished guests. Sakazaki emphasized that while the grant is awarded to only five recipients each year, Bank of Hawaii remains committed to supporting the broader community through financial literacy programs, welcoming all small businesses to seek guidance and support. Nadine Deleon Guerrero noted that through her business advising work, she has observed that a common challenge among small businesses is access to capital, and this grant from Bank of Hawaii is a significant step in bridging that gap. Eliptico expressed NMC's appreciation for Bank of Hawaii's long-standing support for higher education dating back



Front from left, grant recipients: Vince Tudela (Peska Tackle), Rens Belo (Mechille Corp.), Alexandra Villagomez (Isla Consultancy, LLC), Jake Hocog (Divine's Essentials), and Edgar Duenas Niric (Eastside Cuts). Back from left, Frankie Eliptico (NMC vice president-Administration & Advancement), Nadine Deleon Guerrero (CNMI SBDC Network director), Joanne Aldan (assistant branch manager-BOH CNMI), Michael Sakazaki (senior VP/senior market manager-BOH Branch Banking West Pacific Market), Mercilyn Palec (CNMI SBDC associate network director).

to 2018 where he highlighted the construction of a business class simulator for the School of Business students at the college. Unfortunately, just a few weeks after its completion, the space was damaged due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

The event also featured a special guest, Cameron Atalig, general manager of Tupu

Cane Juice, a locally-owned and family-operated small business, and a recipient of last year's grant. Atalig shared how the grant was instrumental in putting Tupu Cane Juice on the right track with their marketing efforts and in establishing their farming infrastructure.

Each of the five grant recipients shared how the \$5,000

grant will help address various areas in their businesses, from overcoming current challenges to fostering innovation and ensuring long-term sustainability.

■ Jake Hocog of Divine's Essentials expressed his eagerness to procure a food truck, which will allow the business to become more accessible to the community.

■ Vince Tudela of Peska Tackle highlighted the need for proper signage to mark their location, and how the grant will help them improve their marketing efforts to ensure customers can easily find them.

■ Rens Belo of Mechille Corporation shared plans to launch a new and innovative product dedicated to providing the community with an improved approach to wastewater treatment.

■ Alexandra Villagomez of Isla Consultancy Services, LLC, spoke about how the grant provides a much-needed boost after the long and challenging journey of starting her business. She looks forward to using the funds to conduct student outreach to cultivate young entrepreneurs and assist other small businesses in making innovative decisions through her consultancy services.

■ Edgar Niric of Eastside Cuts aims to make barber services more affordable and convenient. He mentioned that the grant will bring him closer to meeting the growing demand for barber services, allowing him to hire more staff and support the local economy.

The ceremony concluded

with an invitation for attendees to network, fostering connections and collaborations that are vital to the continued success and growth of small businesses in the CNMI.

CNMI SBDC and NMC remain steadfast in their commitment to supporting small businesses across the Northern Marianas. This collaboration with Bank of Hawaii is an essential component of its efforts, ensuring that local entrepreneurs have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the Northern Marianas College would like to express their utmost gratitude to Sakazaki, Rose Sumor, Aldan and the Bank of Hawaii team and management for allowing this important initiative and partnership to grow as businesses across the Commonwealth continue to face unprecedented economic challenges.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited

English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative Office manager Adelpha Magofna at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu. Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. (PR)

Docomo Pacific strengthens commitment to CNMI with new call center

Docomo Pacific, the regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, is proud to announce the establishment of its new call center on Saipan, a significant expansion of its operations in the CNMI.

Over the past months, the Docomo Pacific team has been working hard to launch a new dedicated call center in Saipan. Through this center, CNMI customers can now connect directly with the same friendly associates they've come to know and trust in Docomo Pacific Saipan's stores. In addition, the company also expanded its CNMI workforce in the Technology, Finance, Human Resources, and Enterprise divisions.

Docomo Pacific sincerely thank the Hyatt Regency Saipan and the Department of Labor for organizing the June job fair, which introduced the company to many of its new team members.

"I firmly believe that our



From left, Verna Sablan, Docomo Pacific call center supervisor; Connie Cruz, vice president of Customer Service Operations, Docomo Pacific; Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan); Christine Baleto, president and CEO, Docomo Pacific; Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang; Pauline Johnson, general manager, Docomo Pacific; and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

people are our greatest assets. This investment is a testament to our deep commitment to enhancing the lives of our employees, loyal customers, and the communities we serve. We share this accomplishment with our commu-

nity and look forward to sharing more opportunities and enhancements to bring us closer to bringing tomorrow's islands to the CNMI," said Docomo Pacific president and CEO Christine Baleto.

Docomo Pacific's CNMI

call center operational hours remain the same:

■ Tech support is available 24/7

■ Customer Care: Monday to Saturday from 8am to 5pm

■ +1 (670) 488-CARE (2273) (PR)

Nation

Harris accepts rules for Sept. 10 debate with Trump on ABC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris has accepted the rules set forth for next week's debate with former President Donald Trump, although the Democratic nominee says the decision not to keep both candidates' microphones live throughout the matchup will be to her disadvantage.

The development, which came Wednesday by way of a letter from Harris' campaign to host network ABC News, seemed to mark a conclusion to the debate over microphone muting, which had for a time threatened to derail the Sept. 10 presidential debate at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Harris' acceptance of the debate rules came as Trump—using a night he had proposed as a debate with Harris on Fox News Channel—instead participated in a solo town hall with host Sean Hannity in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a version of debate preparation with a longtime ally who queried him about his plans to take on the Democratic nominee.

President Joe Biden's cam-

paign had made the muting of microphones, except for the candidate whose turn it is to speak, a condition of his decision to accept any debates this year. Some aides have said they now regret that decision, saying voters were shielded from hearing Trump's outbursts during the June debate. A disastrous performance for the incumbent Democrat fueled his exit from the campaign.

Once Harris rose in Biden's stead and became their party's pick for president, her campaign had advocated for live microphones for the whole debate, saying previously that the practice would "fully allow for substantive exchanges between the candidates."

But on Wednesday, in a letter obtained by The Associated Press, Harris' advisers wrote that the former prosecutor will be "fundamentally disadvantaged by this format, which will serve to shield Donald Trump from direct exchanges with the Vice President."

"We suspect this is the primary reason for his campaign's insistence on muted microphones," her campaign added.

Despite those concerns, Harris' campaign wrote, "we understand that Donald Trump is a risk to skip the debate altogether, as he has threatened to do previously, if we do not accede to his preferred format." So as not to "jeopardize the debate," Harris' campaign wrote, "we accepted the full set of rules proposed by ABC, including muted microphones."

According to an official with Harris' campaign, a pool of journalists will be on hand to hear what the muted candidate may be trying to say when his or her microphone is turned off. That detail was not in the full debate rules, also released Wednesday by ABC, which are essentially the same as they were for the June debate between Trump and Biden.

The network laid out parameters from the basic format—90 minutes, with two commercial breaks—to specifications that moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis "will be the only people asking questions," perhaps hoping to avert a free-for-all between the candidates.

14-year-old fatally shot 4 people in rampage at Georgia high school

WINDER, Ga. (AP)—A 14-year-old student opened fire at a Georgia high school and killed four people on Wednesday, authorities said, sending students scrambling for shelter in their classrooms—and eventually to the football stadium—as officers swarmed the campus and parents raced to find out if their children were safe.

The dead were identified as two students and two teachers at Apalachee High School in Winder, about an hour's drive from Atlanta. Killed were two other 14-year-olds, Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo, and instructors Richard Aspinwall and Christina Irimie, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Hosey said in a nighttime news conference.

At least nine other people—eight students and one teacher—were taken to hospitals with injuries. All were expected to survive, Barrow County Sheriff Jud Smith said.

The words "hard lockdown" appeared on a screen in junior Layla Ferrell's health class and lights began flashing. She and her frightened classmates piled desks and chairs in front of the door to create a barricade, she recalled.

Sophomore Kaylee Abner was in geometry class when

she heard the gunshots. She and her classmates ducked behind their teacher's desk, and then the teacher began flipping the desk in an attempt to barricade the classroom door, Abner said. A classmate beside her was praying, and she held his hand while they all waited for police.

After students poured into the football stadium, Abner saw teachers who had taken off their shirts to help treat gunshot wounds.

Two school resource officers encountered the shooter within minutes after a report of shots fired went out, Hosey said. The suspect, a student at the school, immediately surrendered and was taken into custody. He is being charged as an adult with murder. Authorities said the weapon was an assault-style rifle.

The teen had been interviewed after the FBI received anonymous tips in May 2023 about online threats to commit an unspecified school shooting, the agency said in a statement.

The FBI narrowed the threats down and referred to the case to the sheriff's department in Jackson County, which is adjacent to Barrow County.

The sheriff's office interviewed the then-13-year-old and his father, who said there

were hunting guns in the house but the teen did not have unsupervised access to them. The teen also denied making any online threats.

The sheriff's office alerted local schools for continued monitoring of the teen, but there was no probable cause for arrest to additional action, the FBI said.

Hosey said the state Division of Family and Children's Services also had previous contact with the teen and will investigate whether that has any connection with the shooting.

Authorities were still looking into how the suspect obtained the gun used in the shooting and got it into the school in Barrow County, a rapidly suburbanizing area on the edge of metro Atlanta's ever-expanding sprawl.

At an afternoon news conference, Smith choked up as he began to speak. He said he was born and raised in the community and his kids are in the school system.

"My heart hurts for these kids. My heart hurts for our community," he said. "But I want to make it very clear that hate will not prevail in this county. I want that to be very clear and known. Love will prevail over what happened today."

World

AHEAD OF EXPECTED RESHUFFLING OF GOVERNMENT Ukrainian foreign minister resigns



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba speaks during joint press conference with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in Kyiv, Ukraine, May 21, 2024. AP

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, one of Ukraine's most recognizable faces on the international stage, resigned Wednesday ahead of an expected reshuffling of government leaders. Russian strikes, meanwhile, killed seven people in a western city, a day after one of the deadliest missile attacks since the war began.

Kuleba, 43, gave no reason for stepping down. Four other Cabinet ministers tendered their resignations late Tuesday, likely making this reshuffle the biggest since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Israel's Netanyahu demands open-ended control of Gaza's border with Egypt

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel must keep open-ended control of Gaza's border with Egypt, digging in on his stance on an issue that has threatened to derail cease-fire efforts.

Netanyahu's comments came as the United States is developing a new proposal for a cease-fire and hostage release, hoping to break a long deadlock and bring an end to the nearly 11-month-old war.

The question of Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor—a narrow strip of land along Gaza's border with Egypt, seized by troops in May—has become a central obstacle in the talks. Hamas has demanded an eventual full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in the multi-phase truce deal.

Egypt, a mediator in the talks along with the U.S. and Qatar, has also demanded a

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy indicated last week that the reshuffling was imminent, with the war poised to enter a critical stage and to mark its 1,000th day in November.

He said Wednesday that Ukraine needs "new energy, and that includes in diplomacy." He said during a Kyiv news conference with visiting Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris that he could not announce any replacements yet because he did not know whether the candidates would accept his invitation to join the government.

concrete timeline for Israeli troops to leave the Philadelphi corridor. And on Wednesday, the United Arab Emirates, which established formal ties with Israel in the 2020 Abraham Accords, also criticized the Israeli stance.

Speaking to foreign journalists, Netanyahu repeated his stance that Israel must maintain its hold on the border to prevent Hamas from rearming by smuggling weapons into Gaza. He said it was a vital part of the war goal of ensuring Hamas cannot repeat its Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

"Gaza must be demilitarized, and this can only happen if the Philadelphi corridor remains under firm control," he said, claiming Israeli troops had discovered dozens of tunnels under the border.

He said Israel would only consider withdrawing from the corridor when presented with an alternative force to police it.

Zelenskyy needs to keep up Ukraine's morale amid the grinding war of attrition with its bigger neighbor and to steel the country's resolve for what will be another hard winter. Russia has been smashing Ukraine's power grid, knocking out some 70% of generation capacity and rupturing heat and water supplies.

Wednesday's deadly attack on Lviv—a city near the border with NATO member Poland and far from the front lines—underscored how all of Ukraine is at the mercy of Moscow's long-range capabilities.

"Bring me anyone who will actually show us ... that they can actually prevent the recurrence" of smuggling, he said. "I don't see that happening right now. And until that happens, we're there."

Families of remaining hostages have stepped up their demands that he agree to a deal after Hamas killed six hostages last week as Israeli troops appeared to be moving to rescue them. In angry public statements, hostage families have accused Netanyahu of blocking a deal and potentially sacrificing their loved ones' lives for the sake of holding the border strip. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets in recent days, calling for a deal and saying time is running out to bring home the hostages alive.

Netanyahu pushed back against the pressure, saying his stance was necessary to "ensure Hamas doesn't pose a threat to Israel."

Life & Style

Prosecutor asks for charge to be reinstated vs. Alec Baldwin

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A prosecutor asked a New Mexico judge to reconsider the decision to dismiss an involuntary manslaughter charge against Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of a Western movie, according to a court filing made public Wednesday.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey said there were insufficient facts to support the July ruling and that Baldwin's due process rights had not been violated.

State District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case halfway through a trial based on the withholding of evidence by police and prosecutors from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film "Rust."



AP
Actor Alec Baldwin, right, hugs his defense attorney Alex Spiro after District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer threw out the involuntary manslaughter case, July 12, 2024, in Santa Fe, N.M., for the 2021 fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during filming of the Western movie "Rust."

The charge against Baldwin was dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can't be revived once any appeals of the decision are exhausted.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer on "Rust," was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer—but not the trigger—and the revolver fired.

The case-ending evidence was ammunition that was brought into the sheriff's office in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins' killing. Prosecutors said they deemed the ammunition unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin's lawyers alleged that they "buried" it and filed a successful motion to dismiss the case.

In her decision to dismiss the Baldwin case, Marlowe Sommer described "egregious discovery violations constituting misconduct" by law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as false testimony about physical evidence by a witness during the trial.

In the request to reconsider, Morrissey argued again that the undisclosed ammunition was not relevant to the case against Baldwin, which hinged on his responsibility to handle a gun safely under familiar industry guidelines.

"No one on the prosecution team ... ever intentionally kept evidence from the defendant, it simply didn't occur to the prosecution that the rounds were relevant to the case even if they

were the same or similar to the live rounds found on the set of "Rust," Morrissey wrote.

She asserted that defense attorneys knew about the rounds but canceled an opportunity to view them prior to trial.

"This is a smoke screen created by the defense and was intended to sway and confuse the court ... and it was successful," Morrissey wrote.

Baldwin attorney Luke Nikas said a response will be filed with the court, without further comment.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed is serving an 18-month sentence on a conviction for involuntary manslaughter. She was accused of flouting standard safety protocols and missing multiple opportunities to detect forbidden live ammunition on set. Assistant director and safety coordinator David Halls pleaded no contest to the negligent use of a deadly weapon and was sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation. A no contest plea isn't an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

It hasn't been officially determined who brought the live rounds that killed Hutchins to the set, though prosecutors allege that Gutierrez-Reed was responsible.

The ammunition that skuttled the case was handed over to a Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office crime scene technician who filed the evidence under an unrelated case number. Three of those rounds resembled live rounds that were collected from the "Rust" set after the fatal shooting.

Lady Gaga, Joaquin Phoenix bring 'Joker: Folie à Deux' to Venice Film Festival

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Five years after "Joker" won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival, director Todd Phillips can't help but be a little nervous about returning with its sequel.

"Joker: Folie à Deux," one of the festival's most anticipated films of the 81st edition of the festival, premiered Wednesday and theatergoers at the Sala Grande theater gave the movie and stars Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga an 11-minute standing ovation.

"It feels right, it feels correct to be back in Venice. It felt like the logical launching off point for us," Phillips said ahead of the premiere. "On this one I'm



AP
Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Joker: Folie A Deux' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

a little more nervous. It's a lot easier to come into something as the insurgent rather than

the incumbent."

A sequel was more a joke than an inevitability to Phil-

lips and Phoenix while making the first movie. For one, Phoenix is not the kind of actor to jump at a "franchise." But then an idea emerged to explore the music that Phoenix's character, Arthur Fleck, is hearing in his head. It would have to be as bold, unexpected and audacious as the first, they thought.

That first film had resonated in a way that no one quite expected: It made over \$1 billion at the box office and won Phoenix the best actor Oscar. One of its fans was Gaga, who said that it "really deeply moved me" and showed her something she had never seen before.

Silence from relatives deepens loss of mother

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my mother developed a small nagging cough, and her overall health started to decline. She entered the hospital on a Monday and by the end of the week, she had passed away from a very aggressive form of lung cancer. We were very close, and I was devastated.

I prepared the obituary and also posted an announcement on Facebook. For days, I heard from friends and family offering condolences. But I never heard a word from my husband's niece and nephew. My husband's sister and her husband (their parents) came to the funeral, even though the family lives in a state distant from ours.

I thought we were close to this niece and nephew. They each have children of their own, so they are neither young nor immature. I have been filled with resentment since then. I love them, which is why it hurts so much. I thought we were closer than that.

How can I get past this? I miss my dear mother and the advice and love she provided. After the funeral, I talked to my husband about how brokenhearted I feel. He is a practical person and said I should move on. Is he right?

STILL HURTING IN ALABAMA

DEAR STILL HURTING: Please allow me to offer my sympathy for the loss of your mother, who obviously lives on in your heart. I don't know whether she would have said

this to you, but I don't think she would have wanted you to harbor resentment.

Sometimes, people keep silent because they don't know how to express their feelings or are afraid they might say the wrong thing. I don't know why your younger relatives didn't reach out to offer condolences upon your mother's passing, but this may have been the reason. Practicing forgiveness would be healthier than nursing the resentment you are feeling now.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: How can I plan and enjoy holidays at my home with my three adult children? One daughter and her husband always find ways to hold imaginary grudges against our other two daughters. This daughter claims to be always left out, yet she never reaches out to her sisters or even to me and her dad. She and her husband fabricate things that aren't true and stop communicating with everyone. We are always left in the dark.

This has been going on during her entire married life. My husband and I have health issues and no longer want to deal with her childish drama. We would like to have all of us together for holiday get-togethers but can't because of their hard feelings over imaginary slights.

DISCOURAGED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DISCOURAGED: If this has been going on ever since your daughter married her husband, he may be the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



one stirring the pot. It's a shame because what he's really doing is isolating her. I am sorry you didn't mention how you handle these temporary estrangements. My advice is to be your warm, friendly self. Continue inviting your daughter to these family get-togethers. If she shows up, great. If she doesn't, celebrate without her, which might be easier considering the tension she brings with her.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

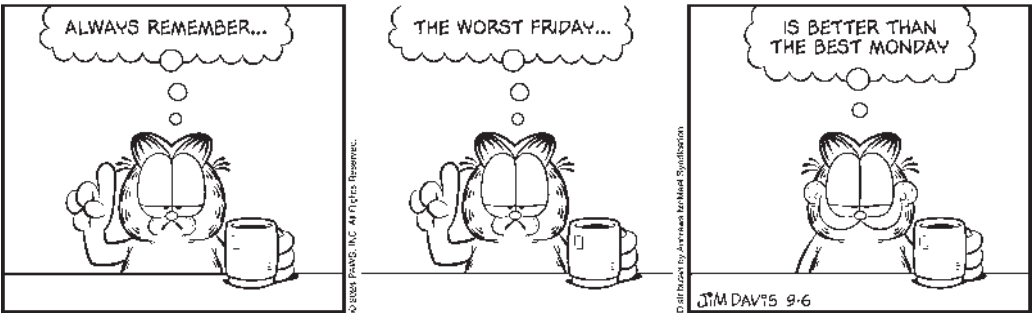
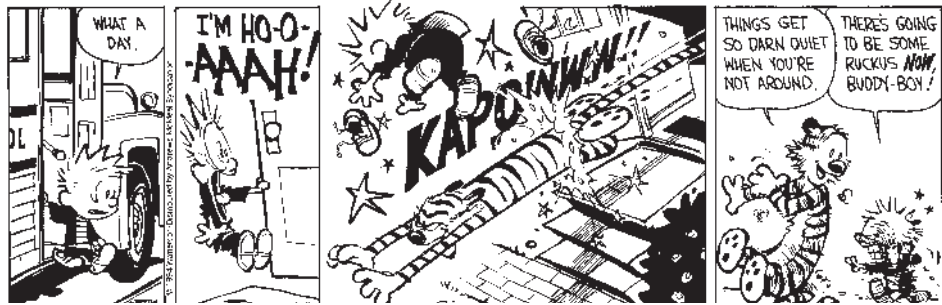
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Jungfrau, e.g.
- 4 Musician's jobs
- 8 Raised
- 12 Mauna —
- 13 Redact
- 14 Speck
- 15 "Sex and the City" author
- 17 Family
- 18 Atmosphere
- 19 Berry of "Monster's Ball"
- 20 Move slightly
- 22 Israel's Golda
- 24 Black-and-white cookie
- 25 "The Power of Myth" author
- 29 Scooted
- 30 North African capital
- 31 Noon, on a clock
- 32 "Outliers" author

DOWN

- 1 Cleric's tunic
- 2 Singer
- 3 Reed
- 4 Category
- 5 Concept
- 6 Baseball's
- 7 Cardinal cap
- 8 Tummy
- 9 Hot dog holder
- 10 And others (Lat.)
- 11 Hamlet, e.g.
- 16 Novelist
- 19 Places for holsters
- 20 Bjorn of tennis fame
- 21 Caspian Sea feeder
- 22 Virile
- 23 Pianist
- 25 Pool sticks
- 26 "I beg your pardon!"
- 27 Low-calorie
- 28 Fibs
- 30 Pairs
- 33 Fiery monster
- 34 Eyebrow shape
- 36 Mexican entrees
- 37 Eyelid woe
- 38 Missing river
- 40 Dele undoer
- 42 Roast VIPs
- 43 Land in la mer
- 44 Texter's chuckle
- 45 Bathroom, in London

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Idris Elba, 52; Rosie Perez, 60; Jane Curtin, 77; Swoosie Kurtz, 80.

Happy Birthday: Draw from all your resources this year and make the changes you've dreamed about forever. It's time to let go of uncertainty and to have trust and belief in who you are and what you can do. Lift the negativity, put strategy to work for you and turn your expectations into a reality. Forward motion takes guts, ingenuity and initiation; act accordingly, and see what happens. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Embrace what comes your way. Turn negativity into positive action. Use your energy to excel and not to disrupt, and you'll rise above anyone trying to sabotage your intentions. Use incentives and thoughtfulness to win support. Social events and networking will raise your profile, and romance is favored. *******

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give up or give in. Set boundaries, standards and worthwhile goals. Put your energy where it counts; the returns will boost your confidence. Use your imagination, improve how you approach work and apply your skills to maximize your input and productivity. Say less and do more. *******

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Know your limitations and boundaries, and proceed cautiously. Listen, observe and test your thoughts and theories on those you trust to offer valid input. Expect to face competition and some underhandedness. Prepare and proceed with intelligence and integrity. Self-improvement is favored, and romance is in the stars. *********

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A passionate approach will get you where you want to go. Engage and make things happen

when there is progress at stake. Engage in networking, socializing and charming those you encounter with your generous spirit. A kind gesture will bring high returns. Offer something out of the ordinary. ******

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be open to change that improves your domestic situation. Reach out to people who share your beliefs and those who can provide you with valid information that encourages good decisions. Only change what's necessary and affordable and that guarantees you'll get the results you require to reach your objective. *********

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set the record straight, live up to your potential and don't allow anyone to outshine you. Use what you already have in a unique way. You don't need the latest and greatest or to spend the most to have an impact. What you need is honesty, integrity and a solid plan. *******

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An open mind, heartfelt attitude and charm will help you reach your destination. Change what holds you back or brings you down; wear your best attire and take the initiative to achieve. Anger and negativity are the enemy; feed your soul positive energy, and anything is possible. *******

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Set the stage for success. Work behind the scenes, perfecting and assembling every detail masterfully. Take pride and confidence in what you do. Refuse to let anyone's negativity shape your future. It's okay to be different. Own the spotlight and be proud of your uniqueness. *******

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Let go of what's no longer working for you; clear space in your heart, head and house. Be open to suggestions and ready for a fresh start, and take the path that offers challenges that make

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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you feel alive and ready to morph into someone new and exciting. *******

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refuse to let anyone take over or stand in your way. Use your time and energy to perfect your intent and to prove your point. Anger will stifle your progress and frazzle your mind and ego. Separate yourself from the drama, and you'll find your happy place. ******

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put a little zip into your life. Choose whatever boosts your confidence or a desire to aspire to something that motivates and moves you. It's up to you to clear the path, so don't wait for someone to do it for you. *********

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't fold under pressure. Step outside your comfort zone and face problems head-on. Show your strengths, and you'll gain respect for yourself and others. Say no to temptation, indulgence and those trying to exploit you. Set high standards and live by them. *******

Birthday Baby: You are unique, understated and competent. You are dedicated and persistent.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **☼:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **☼☼:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **☼☼☼:** Aim high; start new projects. **☼☼☼☼:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

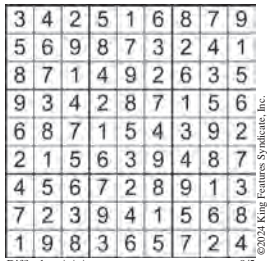
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 9/6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIES COMPLETE A SUIT Solution: 7 letters

S S W F O L D K S M O O R G P
T R E A L A N O I T I D A R ①
O O A P I T E T Z P E E O A ②
D S F L I S R I E R P F C D ③
A Y T F L R T N E A E E I U ④
K T T Y I O T K H S F E R A P
L U I R L C C S S I A D B T G
O X M N A E E I T H I A A I N
P E E E H P O O A A H F F O I
A D L C T N M N L R T O T T N D
I O E K A A D P R R T T D E D
S T S L T S V I M K L I S I E
L A S C O T H A S T N I R P W
E O H M R S L N R B L A Z E R
Y C E N O I S A C C O T T O N

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Ascot, Attire, Blazer, Checkered, Coat, Collar, Cotton, Cravat, Fabric, Fade, Fold, Formal, Graduation, Groom, Handsome, Kipper, Knit, Knot, Match, Motif, Neck, Occasion, Office, Outfit, Paisley, Party, Plaid, Polka Dots, Prints, Professional, Shape, Shirt, Silk, Size, Stripes, Style, Timeless, Traditional, Trend, Tuxedo, Waist, Wedding, Width
Yesterday's Answer: Consumers
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Tiafoe, Fritz, Pegula, Navarro reach semis, make US tennis matter again

NEW YORK (AP)—To hear Frances Tiafoe tell it, Taylor Fritz predicted this sort of moment for the two of them.

And for American men's tennis.

It was during an early morning plane ride together a few years ago that the conversation turned to the future and possibilities, Tiafoe recounted after setting up a U.S. Open semifinal on Friday against Fritz, another 26-year-old American, that guarantees the United States will have a man in a Grand Slam title match for the first time since Andy Roddick lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009.

"He's a pretty to-himself kind of dude, and he's, like, 'Bro, I think me and you are going to be the 1-2 Americans and leading the way.' ... I was, like, 'Dang, dude, (it's) 6 a.m., I'm pretty tired, but let's do it.'"

Why not? He's kind of had that mindset, and he's pushed me a lot, you know what I mean?" Tiafoe, who is from Maryland, said about the chat with long-time pal Fritz, a Californian.

"Times I'm playing really bad, or whatever the case may be, and he's doing it, or vice versa, I think we have kind of always pushed each other," said Tiafoe, who's known Fritz since they were participating in 14-and-under tournaments



Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, reacts after defeating Alexei Popyrin, of Australia, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024, in New York. AP

more than a decade ago. "Now I think it's great that we get to compete against each other in such a big match, and I'm happy for him. I know he's happy for me."

This sort of thing has seemed to be on the horizon for a bit for American men, thanks to a generation that includes the 20th-seeded Tiafoe and 12th-seeded Fritz, along with Tommy Paul, and two younger players also in their 20s, Ben Shelton and

Sebastian Korda. All five are ranked in the ATP top 20.

There also are five U.S. women in the WTA top 20, including Jessica Pegula, who upset No. 1 Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday night to get to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows, and Emma Navarro, who reached the final four with a win on Tuesday to follow up her upset of 2023 champion Coco Gauff. Both Pegula, who plays unseeded Karolina

Muchova of the Czech Republic, and Navarro, who faces No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, will be appearing in a major semifinal for the first time.

Not since 1996 has the United States had five women and five men ranked this highly all at once.

And not since the 2003 U.S. Open have there been two American women and two American men in the semifinals at the same major.

"It's great for American tennis," said Navarro, a 23-year-old who was born in New York, grew up in South Carolina and won an NCAA title for Virginia as a freshman in 2021. "Of course I want to see myself and my fellow Americans go as far as we can go in the tournament."

This is a country that produced the Williams sisters and their combined 30 Grand Slam singles titles, other stars

such as Chris Evert and Billie Jean King, plus more recent major champions and runners-up such as Gauff, Sloane Stephens, Sofia Kenin, Madison Keys and Danielle Collins. The country's men went from the grand tradition of the likes of Don Budge and Bill Tilden way back in the day to multiple Slam champs like Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Arthur Ashe—but the last major men's winner, famously, was Roddick at the 2003 U.S. Open, making the current drought for the group by far the longest in history.

"The standard is always going to be a Grand Slam champion," said Martin Blackman, the head of the U.S. Tennis Association's player development program since 2015. "That will always be the standard for American tennis."

But it had been a while since the men even were coming close.

When Tiafoe reached the final four in New York two years ago, beating 22-time Slam champion Rafael Nadal along the way, it was the first time since Roddick in 2006 that a male semifinalist at the U.S. Open was from the host country. Roddick got to the final that year before losing to—guess who?—Federer.

At the next major after Tiafoe's breakthrough, the 2023 Australian Open, Paul made it to the semifinals before losing to Novak Djokovic. And at last year's U.S. Open, Shelton was a semifinalist, eliminating Tiafoe in the quarterfinals before losing to Djokovic.

"(I) was always genuinely just really happy for my friends to see them have the success," said Fritz, who was 0-4 in Slam quarters before getting past two-time major runner-up Alexander Zverev in four sets Tuesday. "And if anything, it always gave me the confidence that I can do it, too."

Two of his quarterfinal exits were against Djokovic, and one was against Nadal.

With Federer, 43, retired, Nadal, 38, playing sparingly after hip surgery and other injuries (and not in New York), and Djokovic, 37, going through his first season since 2017 without at least one Grand Slam trophy, there are more chances for new faces.

"We've spoken about it for years: 'This is the group. This is the group.' We openly speak about it. We've all been knocking on the door," Tiafoe said. "You put yourself in positions, it's only a matter of matter of time. And the game is open. It's not like it once was, where you make quarterfinals, you play Rafa, and you're looking at flights."

No. 1 Sinner beats Medvedev to reach the semifinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Top-ranked Jannik Sinner used an aggressive, net-rushing style to reach the U.S. Open semifinals for the first time by getting past 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 on Wednesday night.

Sinner—a 23-year-old from Italy who was cleared in a doping case less than a week before the U.S. Open started after testing positive twice for trace amounts of an anabolic steroid in March—will go up against No. 25 Jack Draper of Britain on Friday for a berth in the title match.

After Week 1 exits by Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz, Sinner took over as the title favorite and now is the only man remaining in the field with a Grand Slam trophy. He won his first at the Australian Open in January by beating Medvedev in the final in five sets after dropping the first two.

As reflected by the accurate-as-can-be score, this matchup was unusually topsy-turvy as they took turns dominating a set at a time.

First, it was Sinner who was superior. Then that role was played Medvedev, the



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, acknowledges the crowd after defeating Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in New York. AP

runner-up at Flushing Meadows to Djokovic last year and to Rafael Nadal in 2019. Then Sinner regained the upper hand in the third. In the fourth, from 3-all, Sinner surged, saving a pair of break points, then breaking Medvedev to lead 5-3.

"We know each other quite well. ... We knew it was going

to be very physical," said Sinner, who lost to Medvedev in five sets at Wimbledon in July. "It was strange the first two sets, because whoever made the first break then started to roll."

The key: Sinner won the point on 28 of his 33 trips to the net, including 9 of 11 on serve-and-volley approaches.

"We tried to work really hard on this aspect of the game," Sinner said. "Trying just to mix up the game."

Medvedev was particularly uneven. He only had one fewer winner than Sinner but finished with 19 more unforced errors.

Friday's other semifinal will be No. 12 Taylor Fritz vs. No.

20 Frances Tiafoe in the first all-American men's matchup at this stage at a major in 19 years.

The women's semifinals Thursday night are Jessica Pegula vs. Karolina Muchova, and Aryna Sabalenka vs. Emma Navarro. Pegula eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Draper reached his first Grand Slam semifinal—and became the first British man to get that far at the U.S. Open since Andy Murray won the 2012 trophy—by overwhelming No. 10 Alex de Minaur 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.

Draper has won all 15 sets he's played so far, but things figure to get tougher against Sinner.

"This is not kind of like an overnight thing for me. I've believed for a long time that I've been putting in the work and doing the right things, and I knew that my time would come," said Draper, whose upper right leg was taped by a trainer after he felt something at the end of the first set. "I didn't know when it would be, but hopefully from here, I can do a lot of amazing things. I'm very proud of myself."

Phillies beat the Blue Jays for a two-game sweep



TORONTO
(AP)—Kyle Schwarber

matched a major league record with his 13th leadoff home run this season, Kody Clemens and JT Realmuto also went deep and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2 on Wednesday for a two-game series sweep.

Cristopher Sánchez (10-9) struck out seven in seven innings for the NL East-leading Phillies (83-56), who have won four straight and nine of 11.

Schwarber finished 2 for 3. He singled in the second, struck out in the fifth and was replaced by a pinch runner after he walked in the eighth.

Phillies first baseman Bryce Harper left after he was hit on the left elbow by a 92 mph fastball in the first inning. Edmundo Sosa pinch hit for Harper to begin the third and took over at third base, with Clemens moving from third to first.

Sánchez didn't walk a batter. He was charged with two runs and six hits, including five doubles.



Philadelphia Phillies designated hitter Kyle Schwarber celebrates in the dugout after hitting a solo home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

RAYS 9, TWINS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Yandy Díaz hit a two-run homer in an eight-run fourth inning and Tampa Bay went on to beat Minnesota.

All eight runs were scored off Louie Varland (0-6), who was recalled from Triple-A St. Paul to follow opener Ronny Hernández. Taylor Walls had a two-run single and José Caballero had an RBI single in the inning. The Rays also scored on a pair of fielder's choice grounders with the infield in and an errant pickoff throw by Varland.

Walls picked up his third RBI of the game on an eighth-inning sacrifice fly.

Carlos Santana hit his 20th homer during a four-run seventh for the Twins, who still hold the second AL wild card despite going 5-11 since August 18.

WHITE SOX 8, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jonathan Cannon pitched into the sixth inning and the Chicago White Sox homered three times, snapping their 12-game losing streak with a victory over Baltimore.

Nicky Lopez, Andrew Vaughn and Dominic Fletcher went deep for the White Sox, who improved to 32-109 this season. They need to go 11-10 the rest of the way to avoid matching the post-1900 record of 120 losses by the 1962 New York Mets.

Cannon (3-9) allowed a run

and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

REDS 12, ASTROS 5

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jonathan India led off Cincinnati's nine-run first inning with a 436-foot homer and the Reds cruised to their second straight victory over Houston Astros.

The Reds went to work right away against Spencer Arrighetti (7-12), with India hitting his 11th career lead-off homer and the first since July 12.

Elly De La Cruz had a double and a single in the first, two RBIs and his major league-leading 62nd stolen base. Tyler Stephenson and Amed Rosario each drove in two runs during the outburst. Arrighetti didn't get out of the first, allowing six hits and walking three.

Reds starter Nick Martinez (7-6) pitched into the sixth, allowing four runs and six hits. He struck out seven. Brett Suter went the final 3 1/3, allowing a run and three hits for his first save.

MARLINS 4, NATIONALS 3, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Xavier Edwards hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and Miami beat the Washington.

Automatic runner Griffin Conine advanced to third on Nick Fortes' groundout. Edwards followed with a soft

line drive off Derek Law (7-3) that bounced into left field for Miami's first win of the season against Washington after eight losses.

John McMillon (1-1) pitched the top of the 10th for the win.

The Marlins overcame a 3-2 deficit on Jake Burger's tying single in the eighth. Edwards and Connor Norby hit two-out singles against Nationals reliever Jose Ferrer. Kyle Finnegan relieved Ferrer and allowed Burger's line drive to left.

BRAVES 5, ROCKIES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Jarred Kelenic hit a three-run home run and Atlanta continued their mastery of Colorado.

Charlie Morton (8-7) pitched five innings to pick up the win, allowing two runs on five hits and three walks while striking out eight. Atlanta starters have now gone 23 straight games allowing three runs or fewer, the longest streak in the majors this season.

Raisel Iglesias pitched the ninth inning and extended his scoreless streak to 23 1/3 innings while picking up his 30th save.

Michael Harris II was 2 for 5 with a double and a run scored and Jorge Soler had an RBI.

Rockies rookie Bradley Blalock (1-2), who grew up in an Atlanta suburb, gave up four runs in five innings

while walking six and allowing four hits. It was his fifth career start.

METS 8, RED SOX 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Jesse Winker hit his fifth career grand slam, Phil Maton wriggled out of an eighth-inning jam and the surging New York Mets matched a season high by winning their seventh straight game over Boston.

The Mets completed a three-game sweep of Boston, which has lost six of its last seven, and have now won 14 of their last 19 games to pull within a half-game of Atlanta for the third NL wild-card spot.

New York had just four hits after Winker's first-inning homer against Tanner Houck (8-10), but relievers Alex Young, Huascar Brazobán and Danny Young (3-0) induced inning-ending double plays in the fifth, sixth and seventh before Maton retired Masataka Yoshida on a liner to strand runners at the corners in the eighth.

CARDINALS 3, BREWERS 2, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Luken Baker singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a victory over Milwaukee.

The Cardinals won two of

three from the NL Central-leading Brewers, with extra-inning victories each of the last two nights. St. Louis won 7-4 in 12 innings on Tuesday. Milwaukee went 0 for 15 with runners in scoring position.

St. Louis had a runner at third with two outs in the 10th when Joel Payamps (3-7) intentionally walked Nolan Arenado. Milner, who was promoted from Triple-A Nashville on Tuesday, came out of the bullpen to make his first major league appearance since Aug. 8.

Baker came in as a pinch-hitter and sent a grounder up the middle to drive in Masyn Winn.

ROYALS 4, GUARDIANS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tommy Pham hit his first home run for Kansas City, a tiebreaking, three-run drive in a four-run fourth inning, and the Royals stopped a season-high, seven-game losing streak with a win over Cleveland.

Seth Lugo (15-8) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. He is one win behind Detroit's Tarik Skubal and Atlanta's Chris Sale, who are tied for the major league lead. Lugo is 11-1 with a 1.40 ERA in 15 starts with four days' rest.

Kansas City (76-65) closed within one percentage point of Minnesota (75-64)

for the second AL wild card spot. The Royals and Twins are both 4 1/2 games behind AL Central-leading Cleveland (80-60).

RANGERS 10, YANKEES 6

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Rookie Wyatt Langford had three hits, scored three runs and drove in two a night after his game-ending grand slam against the Yankees, and Texas beat New York.

Langford made a leaping catch at the top of the left-field wall on Giancarlo Stanton's drive with two on for the final out after the Yankees had trimmed a 10-2 deficit on Trent Grisham's ninth-inning grand slam against Grant Anderson. The catch gave Kirby Yates his 26th save in 27 chances.

Juan Soto, who had three hits, ended Nathan Eovaldi's scoreless outing on his 38th homer, a two-run shot in the fifth inning. But Aaron Judge, the majors' home run leader with 51, had a season-high ninth consecutive game without going deep on an 0-for-3 night.

Grisham was a late-inning defensive replacement hitting in Soto's spot. Duke Ellis, who went to high school in East Texas, followed Grisham's slam with his first big league hit.

ANGELS 10, DODGERS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mickey Moniak hit a first-inning three-run homer and Griffin Canning pitched 6 2/3 strong innings in the Los Angeles Angels' victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4, finishing his two-game return to Angel Stadium 1 for 8 with an RBI triple and two runs scored Tuesday.

Taylor Ward homered in his third straight game, and rookie Niko Kavadas also went deep in the long-struggling Angels' second victory over the major league-leading Dodgers in the last 14 games of the Freeway Series.

Canning (5-12) had another high point in his up-and-down season, yielding four hits and four walks while striking out seven and holding the Dodgers scoreless until the seventh. The victory was Canning's first since Aug. 4.

Bobby Miller (2-4) had another rough outing for the Dodgers, who lost for only the fourth time in 16 games. He yielded seven runs on five hits and three walks over five innings despite striking out eight.

SY 2024-2025 school sports kicks off with X-country

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With the school year 2024-2025 in full swing, the interscholastic school sports leagues are kicking off this Saturday, Sept. 7.

The PSS/NMA All School Cross Country season's first meet and the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League will be underway first in a slew of competitions to kickstart school sports competitions.

Cross country's first meet is set at the CPA Airport Field, with high school races to begin at 6:30am, middle school is at 7am, and elementary school is at 7:20am.

Dr. Ron Snyder, who is one of the cross country's organizers, said in an email, "We are looking forward to a great season with lots of great courses. We start at a tried-and-true course on Airport Field. Meet No. 2 will be at [American Memorial Park] on a new and improved course that includes a



LEIGH GASES

File photo from the PSS/NMA All School Cross Country 2023-2024 shows runners in the first qualifier of the season at the CPA Airport Field last year.

short stretch on the beach. Meet No. 3 is the Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff and place medals will be available to first, second, and third place in each school division. The final race will be hosted by the Independent Schools Association but the location is still top secret."

As for softball, the games are set at the Dandan Softball Field, with the first game between Mount Carmel School and Marianas High School varsity at 9am. Saipan International School and Kagman High School's game is at 10:30am.

Then, boys middle school basketball is set to start next Friday, Sept. 13, at 4:45pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Girls high school volleyball is set for Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 4:45pm, at the MHS Gymnasium.

Elementary school and girls middle school soccer is slated to begin in the week Sept. 16-20, with no specific start date yet.

Nick Gross, Public School System Athletic Program director, said that they're excited for the season during

last month's signing ceremony of the school year 2024-2025's memorandum of agreement with its seven national sports federation partners.

"We're certainly excited and ready to roll it out... we have more or less all of our season mapped out," he said.

The seven national sports federation partners of the PSS Athletics Program include the NMI Football Association, Northern Marianas Athletics, NMI

Basketball Federation, NMI Softball Association, NMI Volleyball Association, Northern Marianas Badminton Association, and the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation.

For inquiries regarding Athletic Program activities or how to get involved with coaching, officiating, or volunteering, contact the PSS Athletic Program via email at athletics@cnmipss.org.

Fital takes main MMA event fight in Shamrock FC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT



LAS VEGAS, Nevada —

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital will be the main event in the Mixed Martial Arts heavyweight title match against Jake "The Prototype" Collier for the Shamrock FC 357 in the Ameristar Casino at St. Charles, Missouri this Saturday.

"I'm prepared. I'm just waiting for this fight," said Fital in an interview over the weekend during the 19th Annual CNMI Labor Day

Softball Tournament held at the Sunset Park in Las Vegas.

Fital and his family relocated from Saipan to California six months ago.

"I'm 40 and I'm still going," he said, adding that the upcoming fight will be his fourth this year.

Fital expects an exciting fight against Collier.

The 6'3" Fital, who weighs 260.1 lbs., now has 15-16-2 pro MMA win-loss-draw card. His foundation is Muay Thai. His last fight was against Ricky Biechun on June 14, 2024, in which he was defeated via split decision.

Collier, who stands at 6'3" and weighs 256.5 lbs, has a 13-10-0 win-loss-draw card.

SLIDING

From page 20

ing third game and scored three in the second inning, 3-4.

Sliding Dirty were then shut down as they scored just one in the third and it was still a close game, 5-3. Lady Sufa managed to push a run across and was behind by just one again, 4-3.

But Sliding Dirty got their rhythm back and the top four of their lineup crossed the plate once again for a much more comfortable 9-4 lead. Lady Sufa tried to make for a rally as they scored four in the sixth off their first four batters too—Jaylina Borja, Ashley Angui, Bong Babauta, and Maiyah Duenas for an 8-9 game.

With Lady Sufa breathing down their neck, Sliding Dirty's Christy Aldan scored their last run in the sixth and held on to win, 10-8.

In the first game, Sliding Dirty won, 14-4.

Sliding Dirty got down and dirty early as they scored five in the first for a 5-0 lead. Lady Sufa then got on board in the second to make it 2-5.

Then, Sliding Dirty added four more runs at the bottom of the second for an even bigger lead, 9-2.

Their pitching shut down Lady Sufa in two innings while they went on to score four more in the third to blow the game wide open, 13-2. Only three more runs would come in for Lady Sufa in the fifth and the seventh, which was not even halfway

to Sliding Dirty's lead. Sliding Dirty then scored one more in the sixth for a 14-4 victory.

The roster of Sliding Dirty included Amy Cabrera, Keolani Rios, Christy Aldan, Kianu Aldan, Ashlie Aguon, Kiana "Baby K" Camacho, Maria I. Quitugua, Lizann DeLeon Guerrero, Tiah Camacho, Rayna DeLeon Guerrero, Evalyn Lizama, Moriah Sablan, and Carey Demapan.

Coaches of the team were Nate Torres, Chris Sablan, and Adam Salalila.

Tony Salas, committee member of the tourney, said of the final round teams, "Women's division champs Sliding Dirty had to double dip the undefeated Lady Sufa and which they did. Both teams played hard but Sliding Dirty came out on top and won it the hard way."

As for the tourney, he said, "It was a blast. Mother Nature blessed us with a little rain. The committee and volunteers were determined to get both fields back to playable conditions. We will for sure be having another tournament next year. So, block your calendar for 2025."

He then said, "Just wanted to say thank you to everyone that helped out during the tournament. Thank you to all the volunteers willing to get their hands dirty and make those fields playable. Thank you to all the coaches and players for being patient with us and playing through some tough conditions. See you guys next year."

The sponsors of the tournament include Rep. Malcom Omar (Ind-Saipan); MARPAC and Guy Pudney; Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan); Taste Town (Laurese Kileleman Mettao); John Oliver Gonzales; Kimberlyn King-Hinds; Saipan Mayor's Office; Vinnie Sablan; Saipan Shipping Co.; Juan Santiago; Melissa Litulimar and company; Cathy Salas and company; Rep. Jonthan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Ralph Yu-

mul (Ind-Saipan); Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Manny Gregory Castro (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Diego Camacho (Ind-Saipan); House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Saipan); Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan); Juan and Lucy Aldan; Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan); Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan); Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan); Stormy Salas; Tracy Del Rosario, and Rose Del Rosario.

WHO

From page 20

1 breastroker. We expect him to make even greater strides this season. Although he is only 16 years old, his times are already close to the CNMI national record," he said.

The Tsunami Saipan coach also expects Maria Batallones to continue to shine in the pool as the most be-medalled CNMI female swimmer from the last Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands will add another year of experience under her belt.

"I look forward to seeing her performance as a top female swimmer this season. She is aiming to reset the CNMI record in other events aside from breaststroke this season," he said of the 16-year-old MHS junior.

In Justin Ma, Kimura sees a very bright future and he saw glimpses of this when the MHS sophomore won five individual medals in the 2024 Micronesian Games.

"Not only medal winning, but his result time was also very good in the Micro Games. By U.S. Junior Motivational standards, he already marked multiple AA time splendidly. I'm already expecting a lot from him for next year's Pacific Mini Games in Palau," he said.

Meanwhile, Kimura said Kevin Guerrero may just surprise a lot of pundits this coming season.

"Kevin is Tsunami Saipan's secret weapon. His sprint events in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle are extremely fast."

Apart from the aforementioned

five, Kimura also pointed to four other swimmers who he expects will elevate their swimming this coming season—Gwen Retardo, brothers Apollo and Chris Arriola, and Xingyu Wang.

"I'm sure Gwen will eventually become a swimmer who carries the future of NMI swimming. The level of her motivation is already at the level of national representatives," he said of the Grace Christian Academy middle schooler.

Part of the Ikusei Class, the Arriola siblings are relatively new to Tsunami Saipan but their ascension has been impressive, according to Kimura.

"They have been steadily promoted since joining the club. Their evolution has been so fast that they have completely caught up with the children who started swimming several years before them. I have high hopes for them," he said of the Mount Carmel School students.

Last but not the least, Kimura said Wang already has the makings of a swimming savant.

"Still 7 years old, she already has mastered four strokes—butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. We can really see her big potential especially in breaststroke," he said of the Garapan Elementary School student.

Meanwhile, Kimura said Tsunami Saipan will hold its official time trial next week.

"At the beginning of each year, Tsunami Saipan holds its team time trial because it needs to make plan for the new season," he said

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	81	60	.574	—
New York	80	60	.571	½
Boston	70	70	.500	10½
Tampa Bay	69	70	.496	11
Toronto	67	74	.475	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	80	60	.571	—
Minnesota	75	64	.540	4½
Kansas City	76	65	.539	4½
Detroit	70	70	.500	10
Chicago	32	109	.227	48½
West Division				
Houston	75	64	.540	—
Seattle	70	70	.500	5½
Texas	67	73	.479	8½
Oakland	61	79	.436	14½
Los Angeles	58	81	.417	17
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	83	56	.597	—
Atlanta	76	63	.547	7
New York	76	64	.543	7½
Washington	62	77	.446	21
Miami	52	87	.374	31
Central Division				
Milwaukee	81	59	.579	—
Chicago	72	68	.514	9
St. Louis	71	69	.507	10
Cincinnati	67	73	.479	14
Pittsburgh	65	74	.468	15½
West Division				
Los Angeles	84	56	.600	—
San Diego	80	61	.567	4½
Arizona	79	61	.564	5
San Francisco	68	72	.486	16
Colorado	51	89	.364	33

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRONZE

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ing joy and excitement when I got my medal. I [have] dealt with adversity recently and I just am proud and happy of myself for working through the adversity and getting the medal and proving that I can work through things and still wrestle at a top level. I wrestled [well], so I'm just proud of putting on the line with my injury and still proving why I'm one of the top wrestlers."

He said that the toughest competitor was the Hungarian Darabos, as he was

"so good strategically and really good at holding positions. But other than him it would have to be the guy from Turkey. We were in an absolute dogfight the whole match and it was an entertaining match that I had won on criteria; he was just strong and good at holding position."

Once he gets back to the states, Attao said will rehab and recover and get ready for the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania this October.

Aden is the son of Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, and the grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao of Navy Hill.



Tiafoe, Fritz, Pegula,
Navarro reach
semis, make US
tennis matter again.

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school sports kicks
off with X-country.

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20 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sliding Dirty secures women's title



NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Champion team Sliding Dirty poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Sliding Dirty came out of the ashes to win the women's division championships in two games over Lady Sufa in the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.



In the finals, Sliding Dirty had to win two games to swipe the championship away from Lady Sufa.

The second game was a nail-biter as Sliding Dirty won, 10-8 to secure the title.

Sliding Dirty's Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Kianu Aldan, Keolani Rios, and Amy Cabrera got the game going at the bottom of the first as they scored a run each for an early 4-0 lead. Then, Lady Sufa got down to business as they wanted to push for a tie-break-

See SLIDING on Page 19

Bronze for Aden in U20 World Champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



CNMI son and hotshot wrestler Aden Attao has notched another achievement on his ever-growing long list of accolades with a bronze medal finish in the U20 World Championships 2024 that was held in Pontevedra, Spain from Sept. 2 to 8.

Attao fought his way to the bronze medal matchup of the Greco-Roman 130-kg division and faced off against Aleksandr Melekhov.

There, he was initially down, 0-3, but the 19-year-old gathered all his strength and hit a body lock throw and pinned Melekhov to secure his spot on the podium.

The Oregon State University Beaver started the tourney off with a loss in the qualifying rounds against Laszlo Darabos, 0-9, then had to battle his way in the repechage to reach the bronze medal round.

In the repechage, he first won over Turkey's Cemal Bakir in a close matchup, then secured his spot in the medal round after a dominating, 8-0 win over Ethan Vergara.

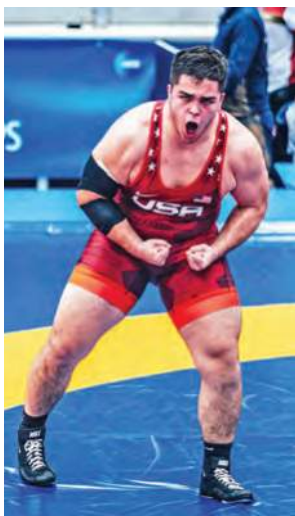
Gold went to Darabos, while silver was Abolfazl Fathitazangi.

With his bronze medal finish, Attao helped Team USA to a sixth-place finish in the Greco-Roman portion—the best finish since 2019. He was then named USA Wrestling's Athlete of the Week.

Attao, who, before this event won gold in the 2024 U20 Pan-Am Wrestling Championships in Lima, Peru that was held last July, said that the tourney was "an awesome experience and I'm super glad I had the opportunity to wrestle in it."

On his podium finish, he said, "I had this overwhelm-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aden Attao screams in celebration after his win during the U20 World Championships 2024 that was held in Pontevedra, Spain from Sept. 2 to 8.



NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

Runner-up team Lady Sufa poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Who got next at Tsunami Saipan?

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

With the "graduation" of Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's established leaders Isaiah Aleksenko and Kean Pajarillaga, it's now time for the club's next generation of stars to emerge from the surf.

Head coach Hiroyuki Kimura is confident that members of the elite Sensyu Class will step up to the plate and continue Tsunami Saipan's rich tradition of producing strong swimmers.

Leading the pack is none other than veteran swimmer Shoko Litulumar, who coincidentally inherited the mantle of team captain for Tsunami Saipan.

"She is the first female in the team's 17-year history to be named captain. Shoko has to improve her level while working on team building as a leader. The position of team captain is a very hard position. But I trust that she will create the best team in Tsunami Saipan history," said Kimura of the Marianas High School senior.

Also named vice captain for the new season is Kouki Watanabe and Kimura said he also has high hopes for the 16-year-old MHS junior in terms of leading the club.

"Kouki will have to work hard on team building along with Shoko, but not only as the CNMI but Micronesia's No.

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TSUNAMI SAIPAN

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center has a new captain and vice-captain in Shoko Litulumar, left, and Kouki Watanabe, respectively.